

BUCCANEERS

SWASHBUCKLING PIRATE YARNS OF ADVENTURE ON THE BOUNDING MAIN!



JANUARY No.25

52

BIG FULL WIDTH
PAGES

The clang of steel echoes
above the lashing waves as
CAPTAIN DARING
defies the currents of
THE SEA OF DARKNESS
to confront
the fierce marauder
CLEWS!

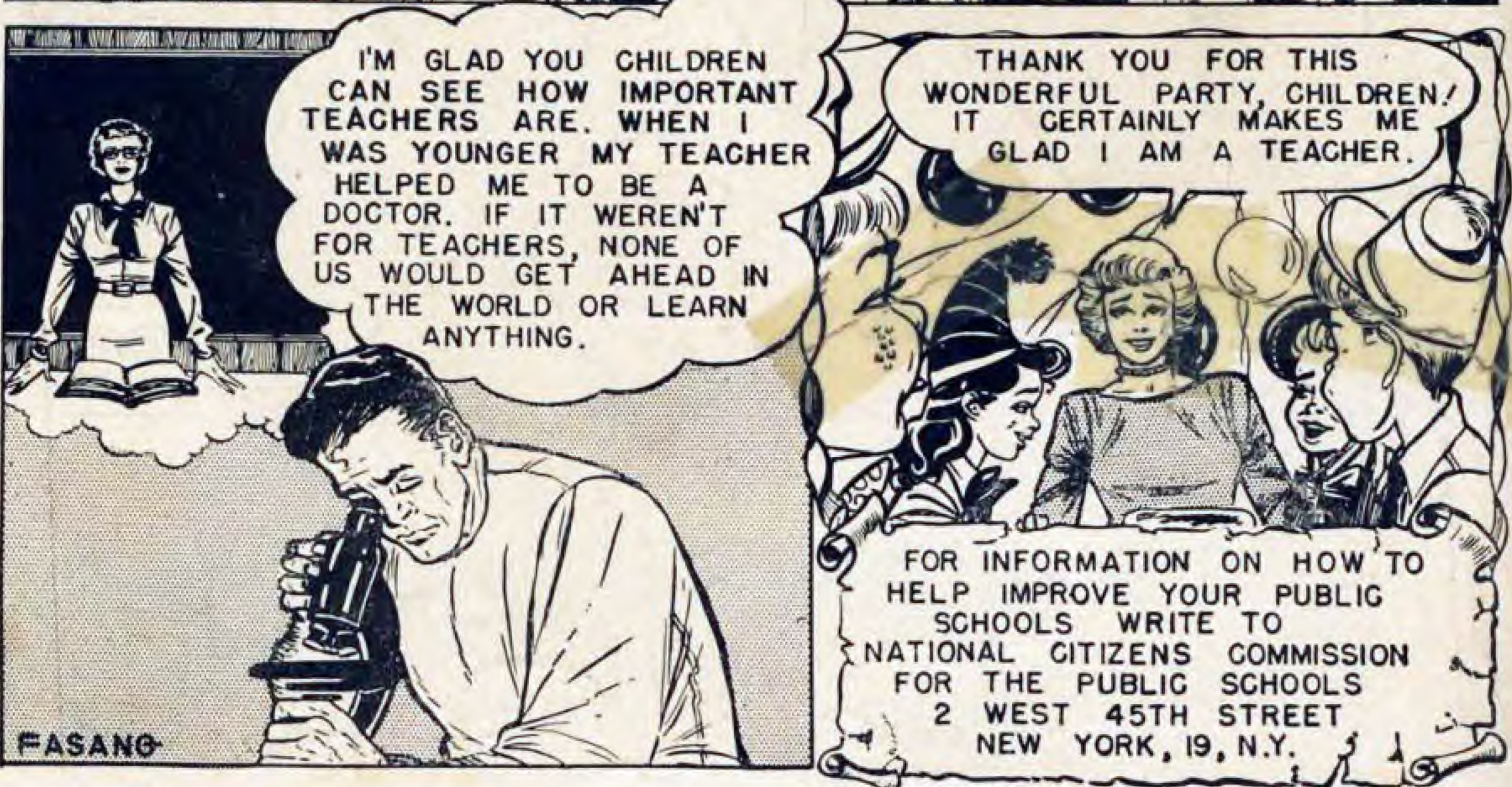


5
exciting
adventures
on the high
seas!

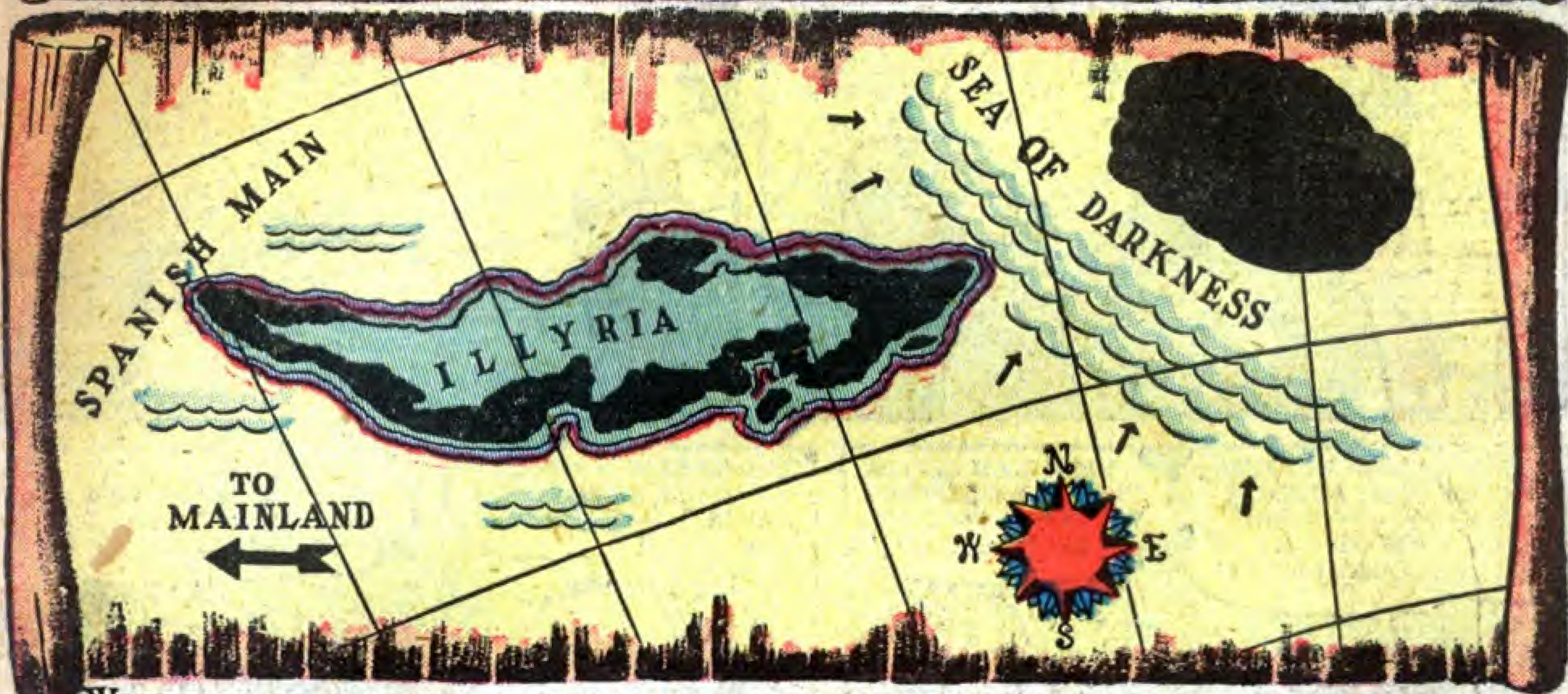


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the classroom secret



CAPTAIN DARING



WESTWARD FROM ILLYRIA STRETCHED THE SPANISH MAIN, HAUNT OF FIERCE PIRATES! EASTWARD LAY...*OBLIVION!* THE SEA OF DARKNESS, MEN CALLED IT, FOR NO SHIP, CAUGHT IN IT'S SURGING CURRENT HAD EVER RETURNED TO TELL WHAT LAY BENEATH THE MISTS OF DISTANCE! NOT EVEN CAPTAIN DARING HAD EVER CHALLENGED IT'S DARK MYSTERY...UNTIL THE TERRIBLE DAY HE SAW THE SHIP BEARING SIR MARK DRAYTON AND THE LOVELY LADY DOLORES SWEEP HELPLESSLY INTO...

"THE OCEAN OF NEVER RETURN!"



BUCCANEERS

SIR MARK DRAYTON, OF ILLYRIA, HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE SPANISH GOVERNOR OF MADRID!



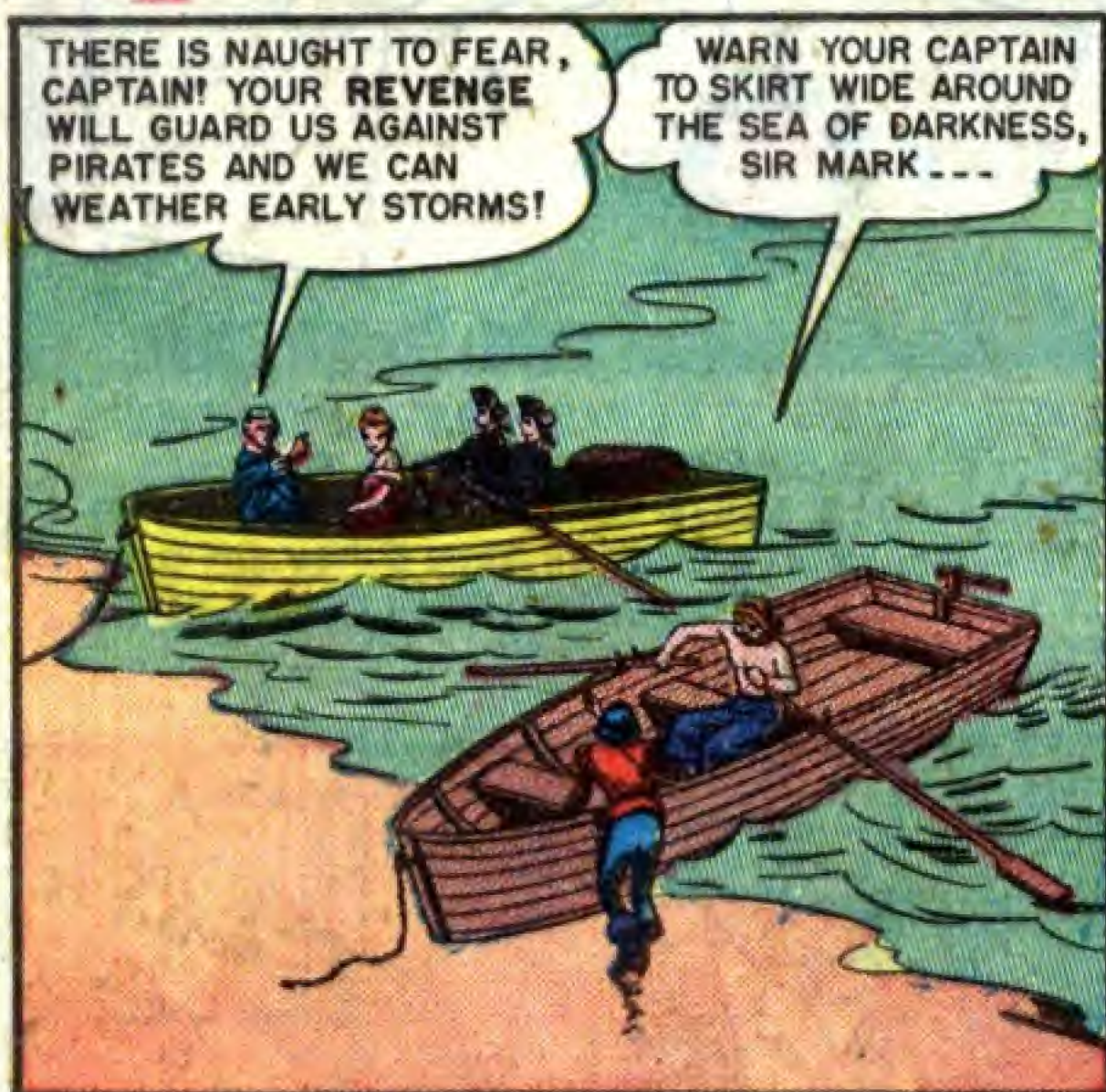
AT LEAST, SIR MARK, FORBID MY LADY DOLORES TO ACCOMPANY YOU! THE SEA TEEMS WITH PIRATES AND THE HURRICANE SEASON APPROACHES!

HAH! 'TIS PLAIN YOU KNOW MORE OF PIRATES THAN OF WOMAN, CAPTAIN DARING! AS SOON FORBID THE SUN TO RISE!



FIE ON YOUR ALARMS, CAPTAIN! WOULD YOU HAVE ME GATHER DUST IN ILLYRIA WAITING FOR YOU TO PAY ME COURT BETWEEN EXPEDITIONS!

WHEN THE SEAS ARE FREE OF BUCCANEERS, MY LADY, THEN I WILL PAY COURT TO YOUR LOVELINESS DAY AND NIGHT! UNTIL THEN, ALAS...!



THERE IS NAUGHT TO FEAR, CAPTAIN! YOUR REVENGE WILL GUARD US AGAINST PIRATES AND WE CAN WEATHER EARLY STORMS!

WARN YOUR CAPTAIN TO SKIRT WIDE AROUND THE SEA OF DARKNESS, SIR MARK...



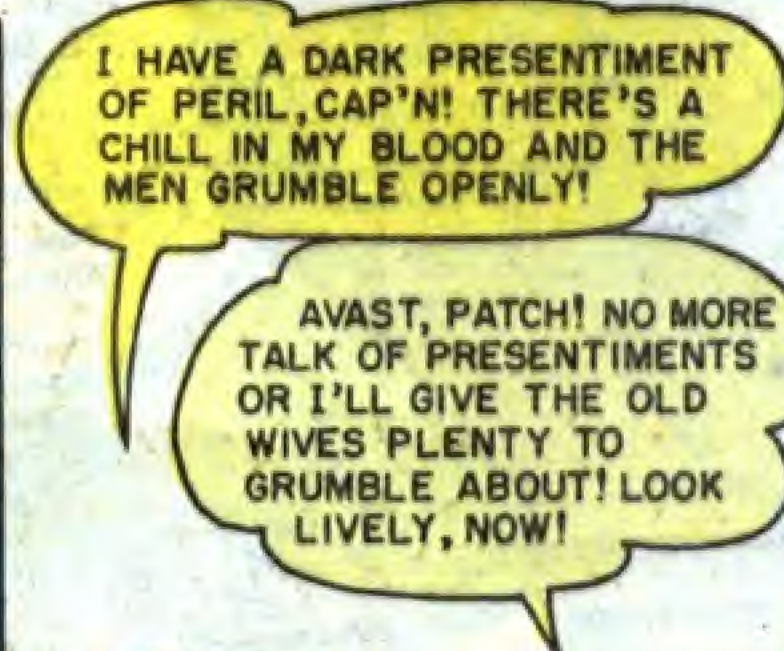
IF THAT DEADLY CURRENT GRIPS YOU, NO POWER ON EARTH CAN DRAW YOU FREE!

FEAR NOT! MY SEAMEN WOULD RATHER EMBRACE THE PLAGUE THAN SAIL NEAR THAT DREAD SPOT!



WEIGH ANCHOR, PATCH! THE INDIES QUEEN SAILS ON THE TIDE AND WE'LL PICK HER UP OUTSIDE THE HARBOR!

AYE, AYE, SIR! BUT CAP'N, I LIKE NOT THIS VOYAGE, NOR DO THE MEN...



I HAVE A DARK PRESENTIMENT OF PERIL, CAP'N! THERE'S A CHILL IN MY BLOOD AND THE MEN GRUMBLE OPENLY!

AVAST, PATCH! NO MORE TALK OF PRESENTIMENTS OR I'LL GIVE THE OLD WIVES PLENTY TO GRUMBLE ABOUT! LOOK LIVELY, NOW!



SO, AT SUNSET THE DANGEROUS VOYAGE BEGINS...

BUT WITH THE DAWN, IMAGINED PERILS BECAME REAL!



I WOULDN'T LET PATCH OR THE MEN KNOW... BUT I, TOO, HAVE AN OPPRESSIVE WEIGHT ON MY SOUL! I FEEL AS IF GRAVE PERILS LURKED AHEAD!



CAP'N, COME QUICK! TWO SWIFT SHIPS CLOSE IN ON US... AND THEY FLY THE JOLLY ROGER!

PIRATES! THEY THINK THE INDIES QUEEN IS A TREASURE GALLEON!



BREAK OUT ALL CANVAS! STRIP THE GUNS AND LOAD WITH ROUND SHOT! SWITCH TO CHAIN AND GRAPE IF THEY TRY TO CLOSE WITH US!

AYE, AYE, CAP'N!



FIRE TUBS ON DECK, SIR! LIGHT YOUR MATCHES, GUNNERS!

OPEN FIRE WHEN THE RANGE IS RIGHT! TRY TO HULL THEM AT THE WATER LINE!



LET THE ROGUES TRY A BOARDING PARTY, CAP'N! WE'LL SCUPPER THEM NEATLY---

WE MUST AVOID THEIR GRAPPLES AT ALL COSTS, PATCH! NO HAND TO HAND FIGHTING THIS TIME---



ONE COULD KEEP US BUSY WHILE HIS RASCALLY MATE OVERHAULED THE INDIES QUEEN AT LEISURE! WE MUST PLACE HER SAFETY FIRST!

AYE, AYE, BUT I'VE NO STOMACH FOR A RUNNING FIGHT, CAP'N! THEY'LL POUND US TO BITS BETWEEN THEM!



AHOY, INDIES QUEEN! TRY TO RUN FOR IT WHILE I COVER YOU! KEEP CLEAR AND DON'T LET THEM BOARD YOU!

WE'LL DO OUR BEST, CAPTAIN DARING! OUR PRAYERS GO WITH YOU!

SO THE DESPERATE, UNEQUAL BATTLE WAS JOINED AND AS THE SUN MOUNTED BLINDINGLY...



WE'VE CRIPPLED HER, MEN! POUR IN THE BROADSIDES!

HOLD FIRE! BREAK AWAY AND TAKE AFTER HER MATE! SHE'S TRYING TO CLOSE WITH THE INDIES QUEEN!

BOOM



CAP'N DARING... LOOK! THE BUCCANEER'S BREAKING OFF THE ENGAGEMENT! SHE'S HEADING SOUTH UNDER FULL CANVAS!

'S WOUNDS, PATCH, YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WHY? I SEE NAUGHT ON ANY HORIZON TO FRIGHTEN HER OFF!



AND THE OTHER...! THEY'RE BOTH FLEEING AS IF THE DEVIL HIMSELF WERE UPON THEM!

MAYHAP HE IS, PATCH! I'VE BUT NOW SEEN THE DREADFUL ANSWER...!



THE INDIES QUEEN POINTS HER NOSE SOUTH... BUT SHE SAILS SWIFTLY NORTH, STERN FIRST!

THE DREADFUL CURRENT! THE PIRATES FLED LEST THEY, TOO, BE SUCKED INTO THE SEA OF DARKNESS! WE MUST FLEE AT ONCE!



HELM HARD ALEE! CROWD ON ALL SAIL! WE ARE IN THE DREADFUL CURRENT AND MAY...
OOOFFF!

HEED HIM NOT! HELMSMAN, STEER US TO THE INDIES QUEEN! BREAK OUT GRAPPLES!



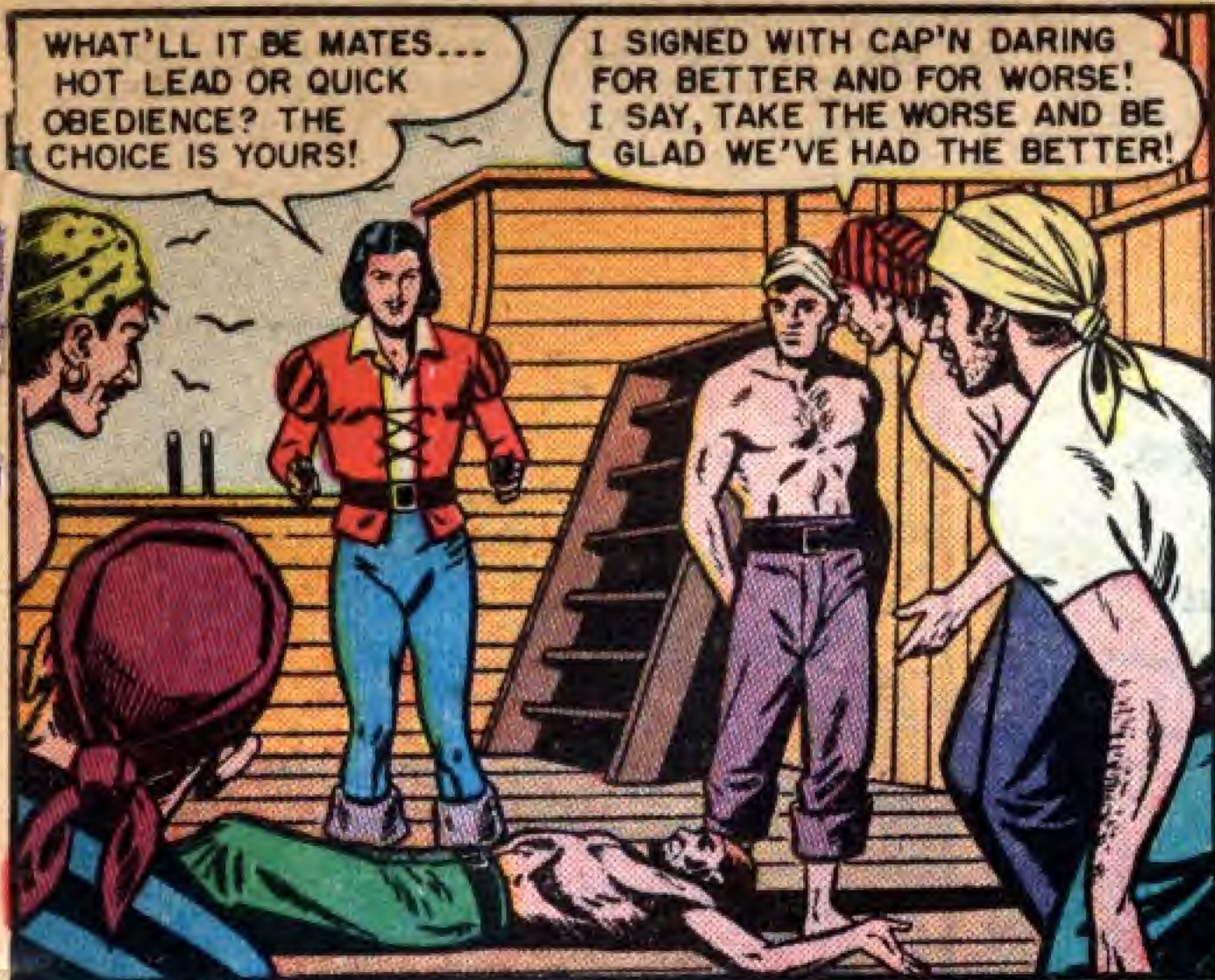
HEED HIM NOT, MATES! YOU HEARD WHAT PATCH SAID! WE'RE IN THE DREADFUL CURRENT! OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO SAIL SOUTHWARD!

THERE'S BUT ONE WAY TO HANDLE MUTINY...



YOU'VE A LARGE MOUTH, MY FRIEND! HERE'S AN EFFECTIVE PLUG FOR SO MUCH BILGE AS YOU SPEW!

EEEEAAHHH!



WHAT'LL IT BE MATES...
HOT LEAD OR QUICK
OBEDIENCE? THE
CHOICE IS YOURS!

I SIGNED WITH CAP'N DARING
FOR BETTER AND FOR WORSE!
I SAY, TAKE THE WORSE AND BE
GLAD WE'VE HAD THE BETTER!



AYE! CAP'N DARING IS STILL
OUR CAPTAIN! WE'VE HAD
GOOD LOOT AND A MERRY
LIFE WI' HIM! WE'LL DIE
WITH HIM!

THANKS, MEN, BUT
WE'RE A LONG WAY
FROM DEAD YET!
PREPARE TO
GRAPPLE!

THE GRAPPLES ARE THROWN AND THE
TWO STRICKEN SHIPS DRAW TOGETHER...



OH, MY CAPTAIN, WHY
DID YOU NOT FLEE
WHILE THERE WAS
TIME? WE ARE HELP-
LESS IN THE DREAD-
FUL CURRENT! WE
SHALL DIE...

IF I MUST DIE, MY
LADY, THEN DEATH
BY YOUR SIDE IS
MORE PLEASANT
THAN LIFE WITH-
OUT YOU!

BUT WHILE WE STILL
LIVE, WE'LL NOURISH
FAIR HOPE! I HAD
THOUGHT MAYHAP
OUR COMBINED CAN-
VAS COULD DRAW
US FREE IF THE
WIND HOLDS!

YOU MEAN
"FAINT HOPE,"
CAPTAIN
DARING! AL-
READY THE
NOON CALM
LIES UPON
THE SEA!
THE SAILS
HANG LIMP!

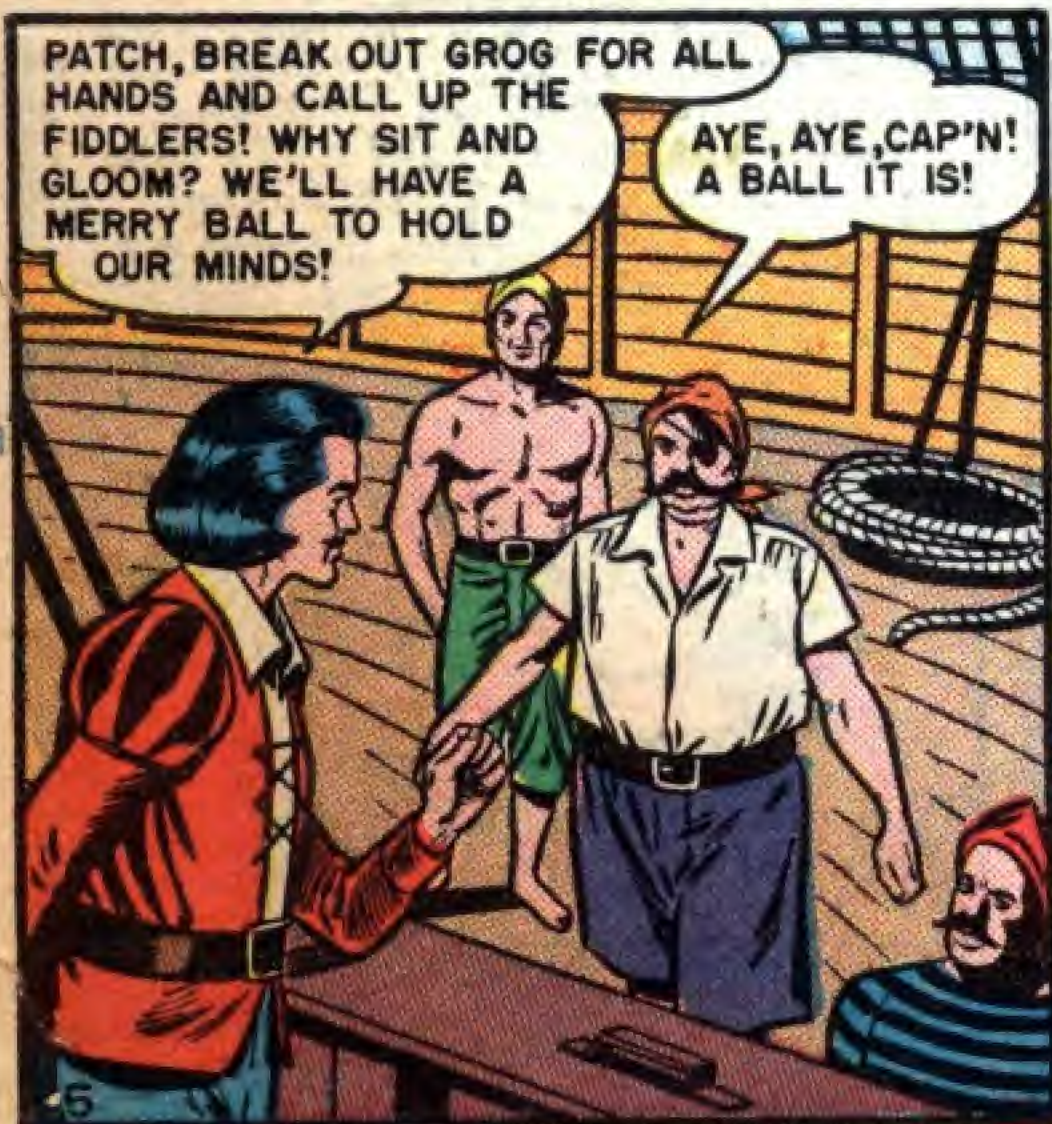


WASHED TOGETHER, THE TWO GREAT
SHIPS ARE NO MORE THAN HELP-
LESS CHIPS ON THE RUSHING SEA...



WHAT THINK YOU
LIES AHEAD, MY
CAPTAIN? SEA
MONSTERS?
DEMONS? A
BLACK ABYSS?

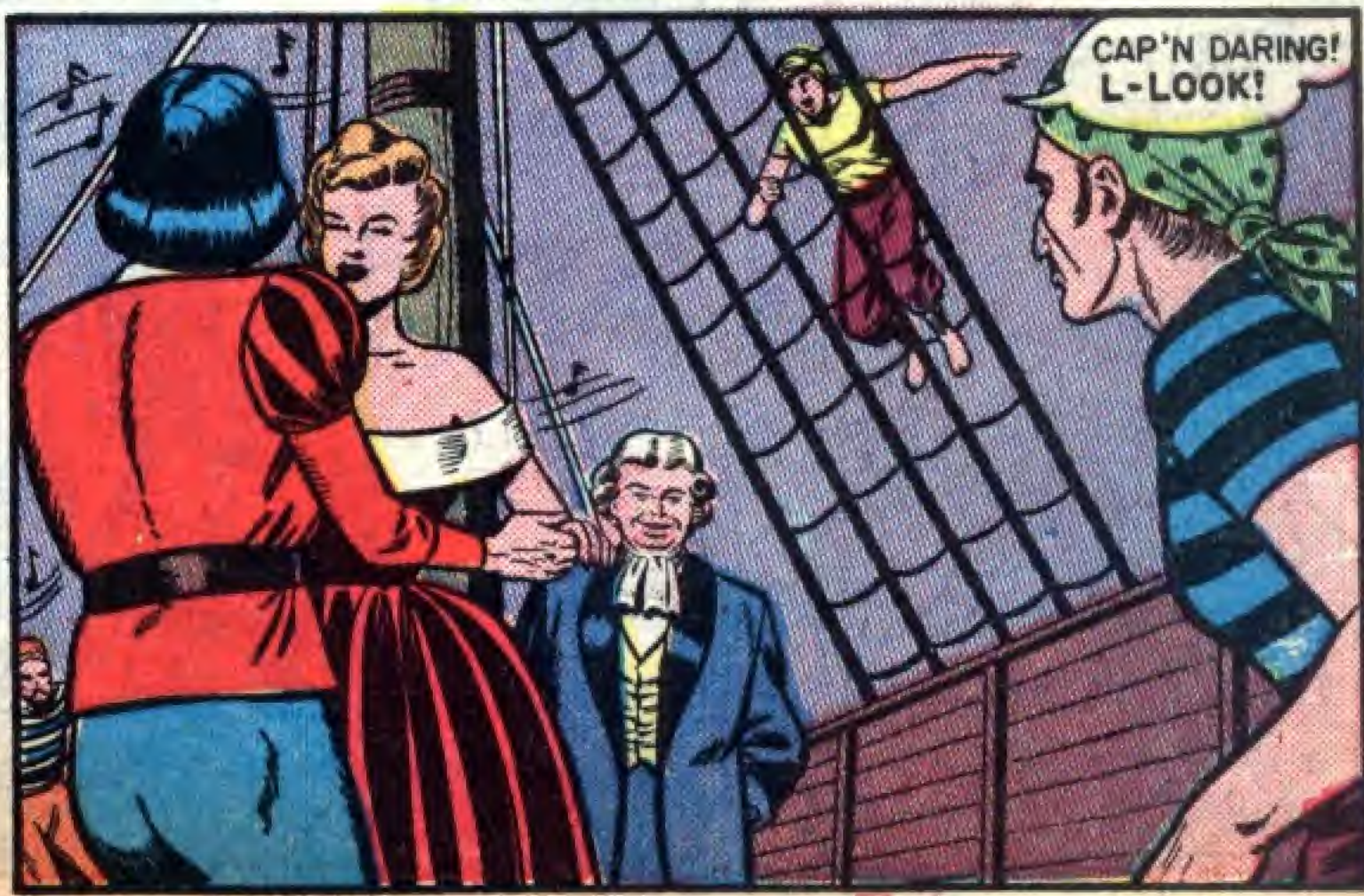
MARRY, WHY NOT
A TROPIC ISLE
OF SUCH PASS-
ING BEAUTY
THAT NONE WHO
FIND IT WANT TO
LEAVE? I PREFER
TO EXPECT
GOOD, NOT
EVIL!



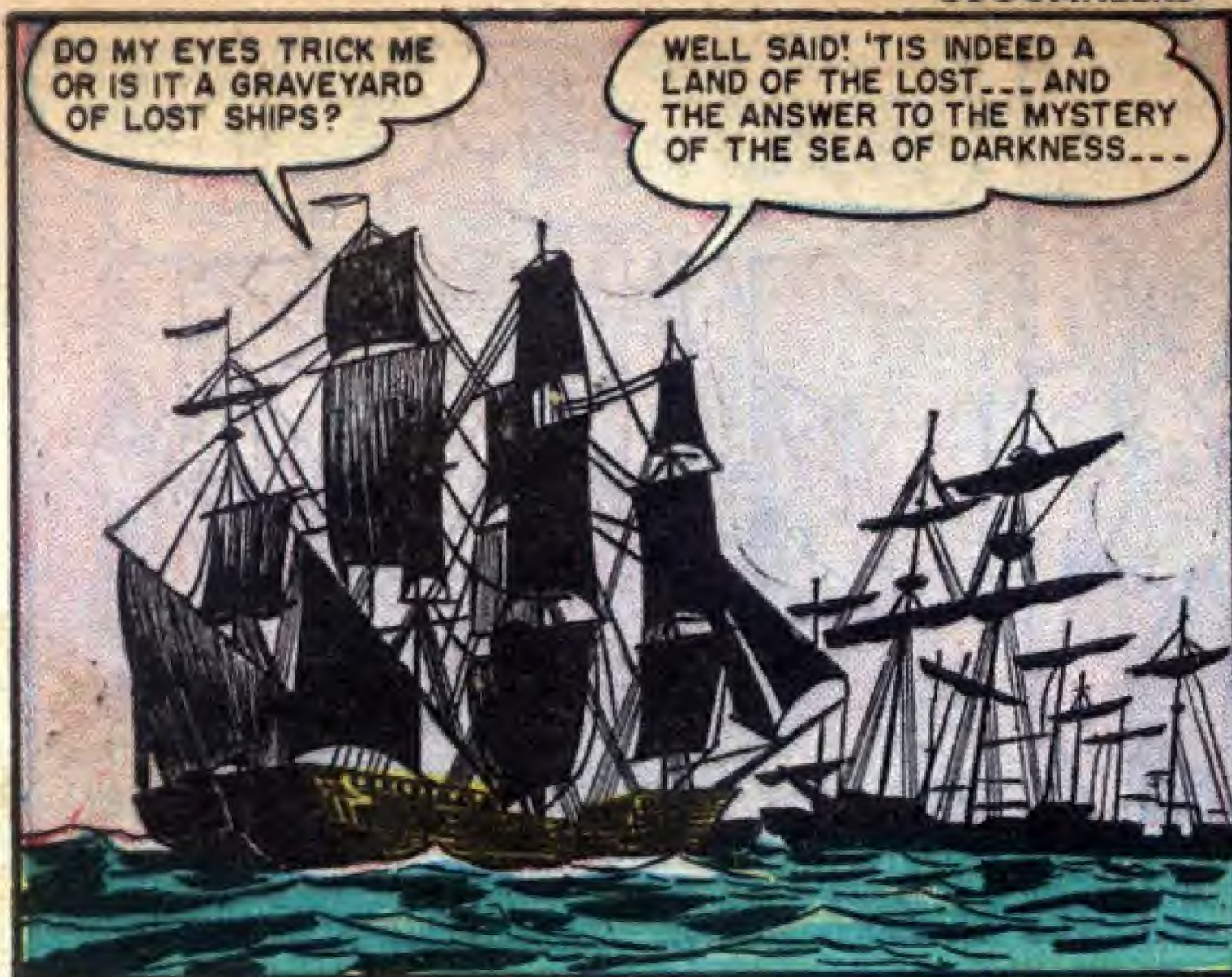
PATCH, BREAK OUT GROG FOR ALL
HANDS AND CALL UP THE
FIDDLERS! WHY SIT AND
GLOOM? WE'LL HAVE A
MERRY BALL TO HOLD
OUR MINDS!

AYE, AYE, CAP'N!
A BALL IT IS!

THE SHADOW OF DREAD IS FORGOTTEN UNTIL, AS THE SUN DROPS
LOW ON THE HORIZON...



CAP'N DARING!
L-LOOK!



DO MY EYES TRICK ME
OR IS IT A GRAVEYARD
OF LOST SHIPS?

WELL SAID! 'TIS INDEED A
LAND OF THE LOST... AND
THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY
OF THE SEA OF DARKNESS...



HERE THE OCEAN CURRENTS
MEET IN A VORTEX THAT
DRAWS IN EVERY DRIFTING
THING AND HOLDS IT!

I SEE TREASURE
GALLEONS, MEN-
O-WAR, MERCHANT-
MEN, SLOOPS...
VERILY A SOLID
ISLAND OF TRAPPED
SHIPS! AND WE
JOIN THEM!



SUDDENLY...

AHOY, REVENGE AND INDIES
QUEEN! WELCOME TO THE
KINGDOM OF PLUNDER! WILL
YE SURRENDER NOW OR
MAKE A FIGHT OF IT FIRST?

CAPTAIN CLEWS! I
WONDERED WHAT GOOD
FORTUNE TOOK YOU
FROM THE SIGHT OF
HONEST MEN...



WE'LL NEVER SURRENDER
TO ROGUES OF YOUR
STRIPE, CLEWS!

STAND BY TO
REPEL BOARDERS!



OVER AND AT THEM,
DOGS! WE'VE BEEN
OVER-LONG WITHOUT
A FIGHT!

AND WE'LL SEE THAT
YOU GET MORE FIGHT
THEN YOU'VE STOMACH
FOR!

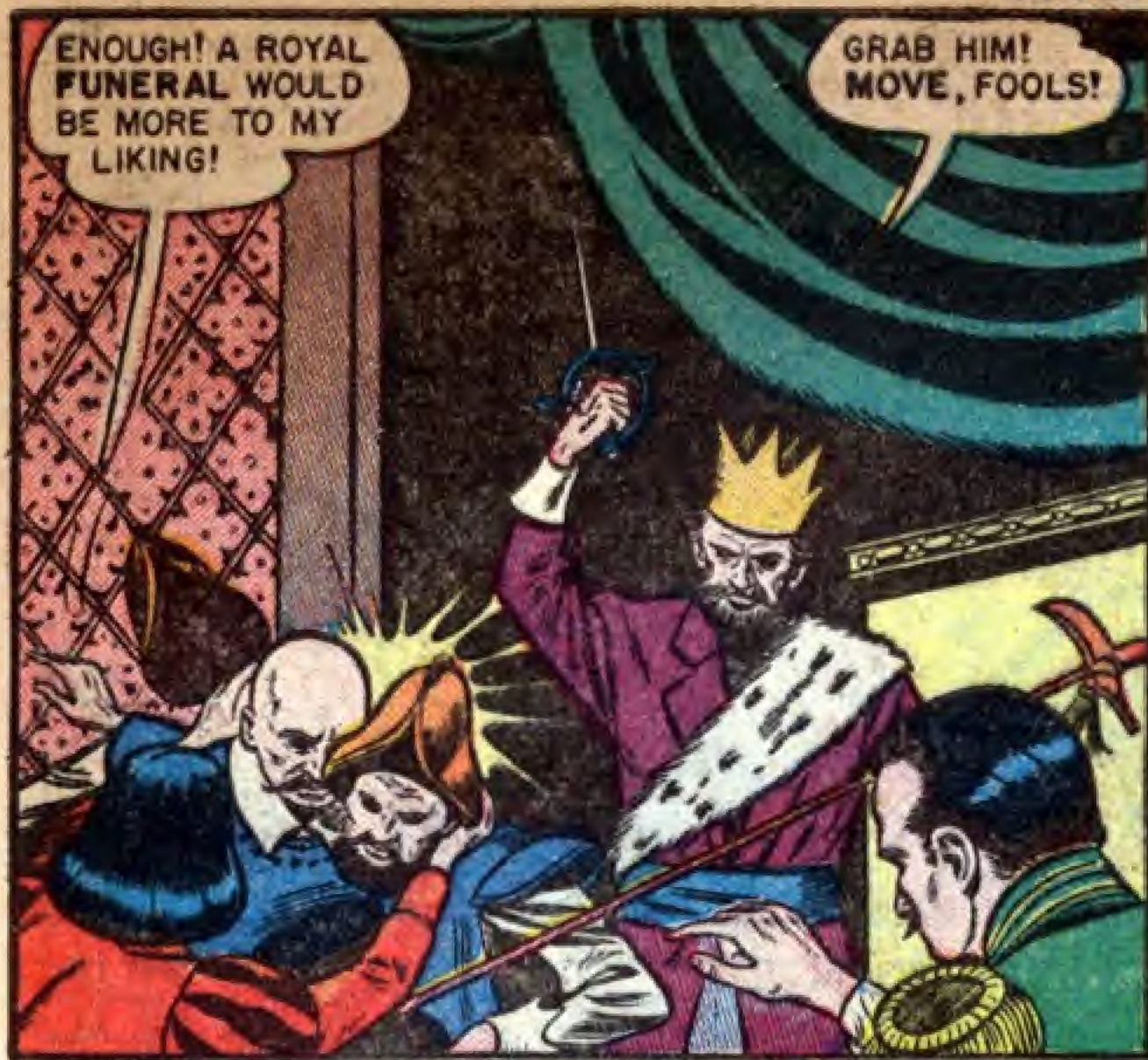


THIS IS LIKE OLD TIMES,
CLEWS! THE LAST TIME
WE CROSSED BLADES,
YOU FLED LIKE THE
RASCALLY COWARD
YOU ARE!

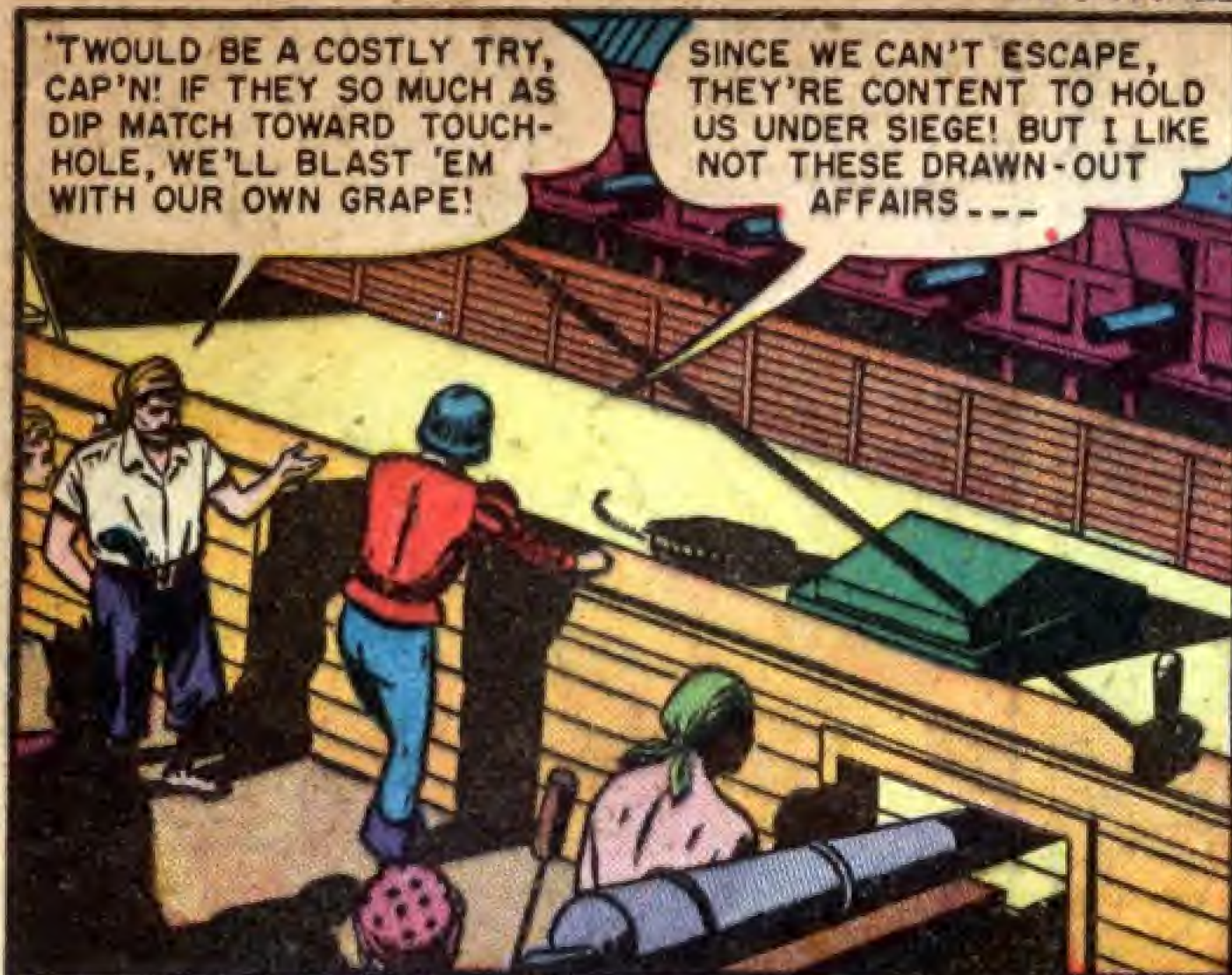
BUT THIS TIME
THERE'S NO
PLACE FOR
EITHER OF
US TO FLEE
TO, EH?











'TWOULD BE A COSTLY TRY, CAP'N! IF THEY SO MUCH AS DIP MATCH TOWARD TOUCH-HOLE, WE'LL BLAST 'EM WITH OUR OWN GRAPE!

SINCE WE CAN'T ESCAPE, THEY'RE CONTENT TO HOLD US UNDER SIEGE! BUT I LIKE NOT THESE DRAW-OUT AFFAIRS ---



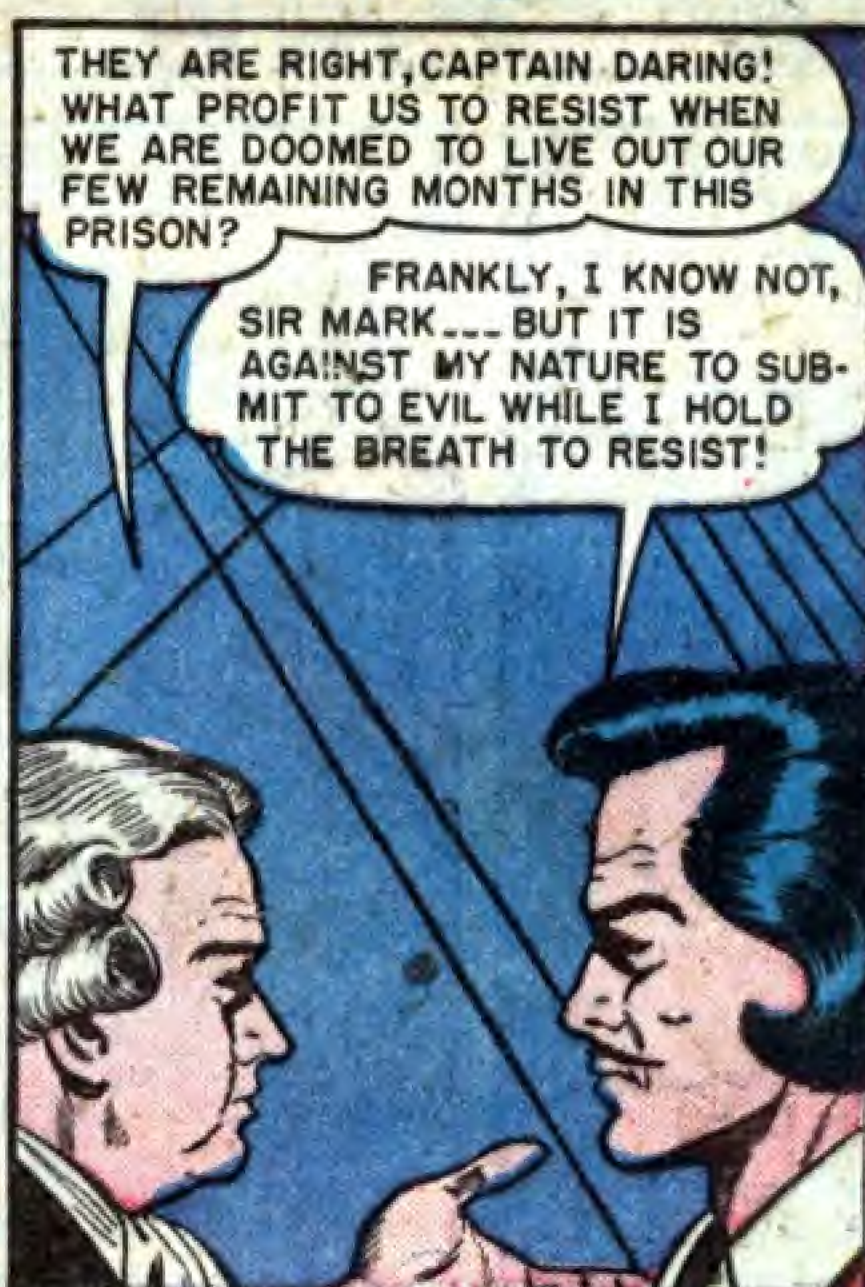
TELL YOUR CUTTHROATS TO ABANDON THEIR CANNON AND WITHDRAW!

YOU HEARD HIM! RETREAT OR HE'LL SKEWER ME LIKE MUTTON! WHEN NIGHT FALLS, THERE MAY BE A CHANGE OF FORTUNES!



SO BE IT! WE CAN ALWAYS CHOOSE A NEW KING... BUT WHY SHOULD WE RISK DEATH WHEN TIME WILL BRING US EVENTUAL VICTORY?

OVERSIDE, PATCH! TAKE A PARTY AND SEIZE THOSE GUNS! TURN THEM TOWARD THE RASCALS!



THEY ARE RIGHT, CAPTAIN DARING! WHAT PROFIT US TO RESIST WHEN WE ARE DOOMED TO LIVE OUT OUR FEW REMAINING MONTHS IN THIS PRISON?

FRANKLY, I KNOW NOT, SIR MARK... BUT IT IS AGAINST MY NATURE TO SUBMIT TO EVIL WHILE I HOLD THE BREATH TO RESIST!

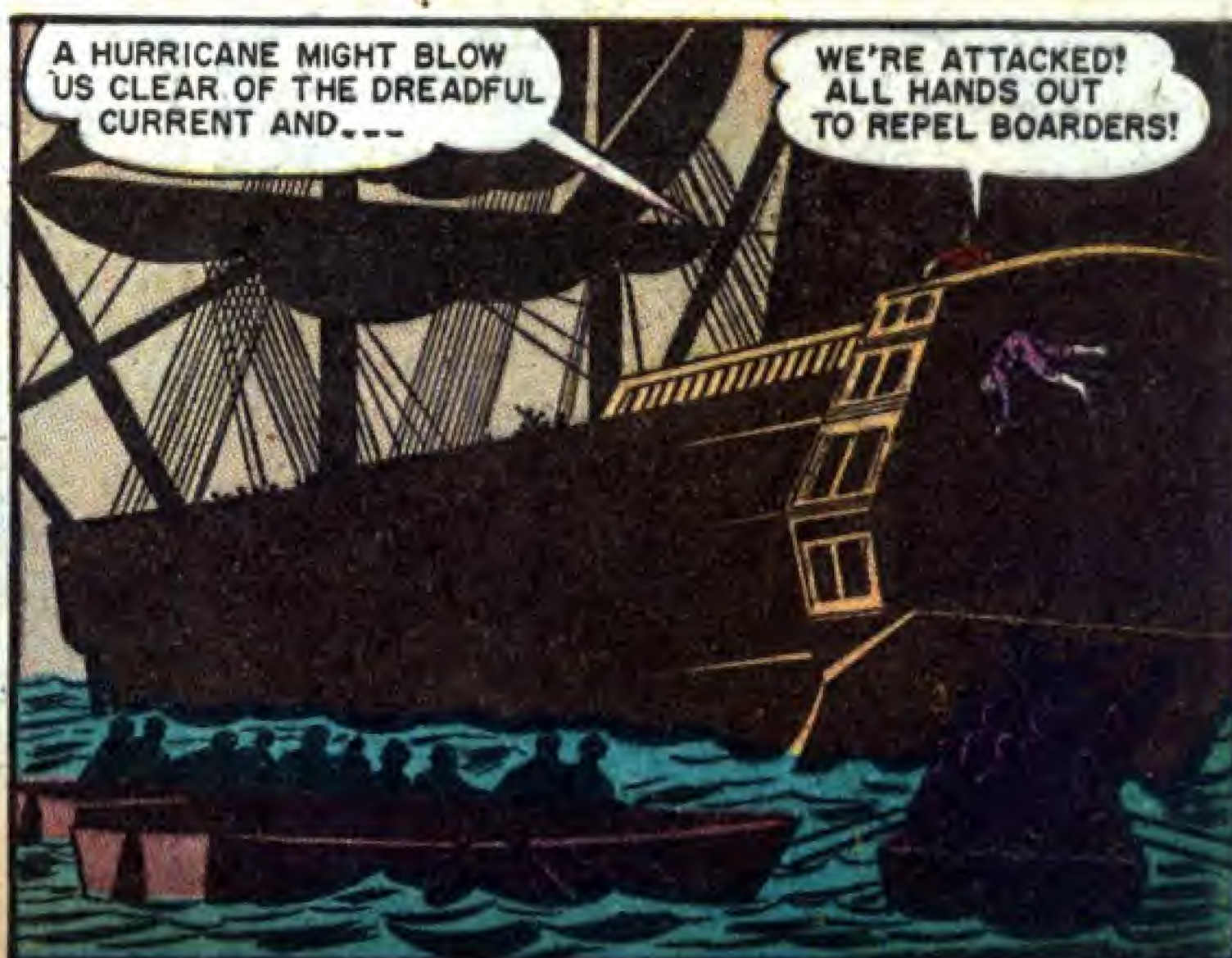


STRING LANTERNS TO LIGHT THE ADJOINING DECKS! THEN HOIST TAR BARRELS TO OUR RIGGING ON THE SEA-SIDE! WE'LL NEED LIGHT AGAINST A SURPRISE ATTACK!



CAP'N, YOU'D BEST ORDER THE SAILS FURLED AND THE HATCHES BATTENED! THE BAROMETER'S FALLING LIKE A STONE! WE'RE IN FOR A BAD BLOW!

ON THE CONTRARY, PATCH! LASH ON EVERY YARD OF SAIL WE HAVE! THAT'S THE NEWS I'VE BEEN HOPING TO HEAR!



A HURRICANE MIGHT BLOW US CLEAR OF THE DREADFUL CURRENT AND ---

WE'RE ATTACKED! ALL HANDS OUT TO REPEL BOARDERS!



DRIVE THEM BACK, LADS!
AND LOOK ALIVE FOR ATTACK
FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

CAP'N! HE
GOT AWAY!



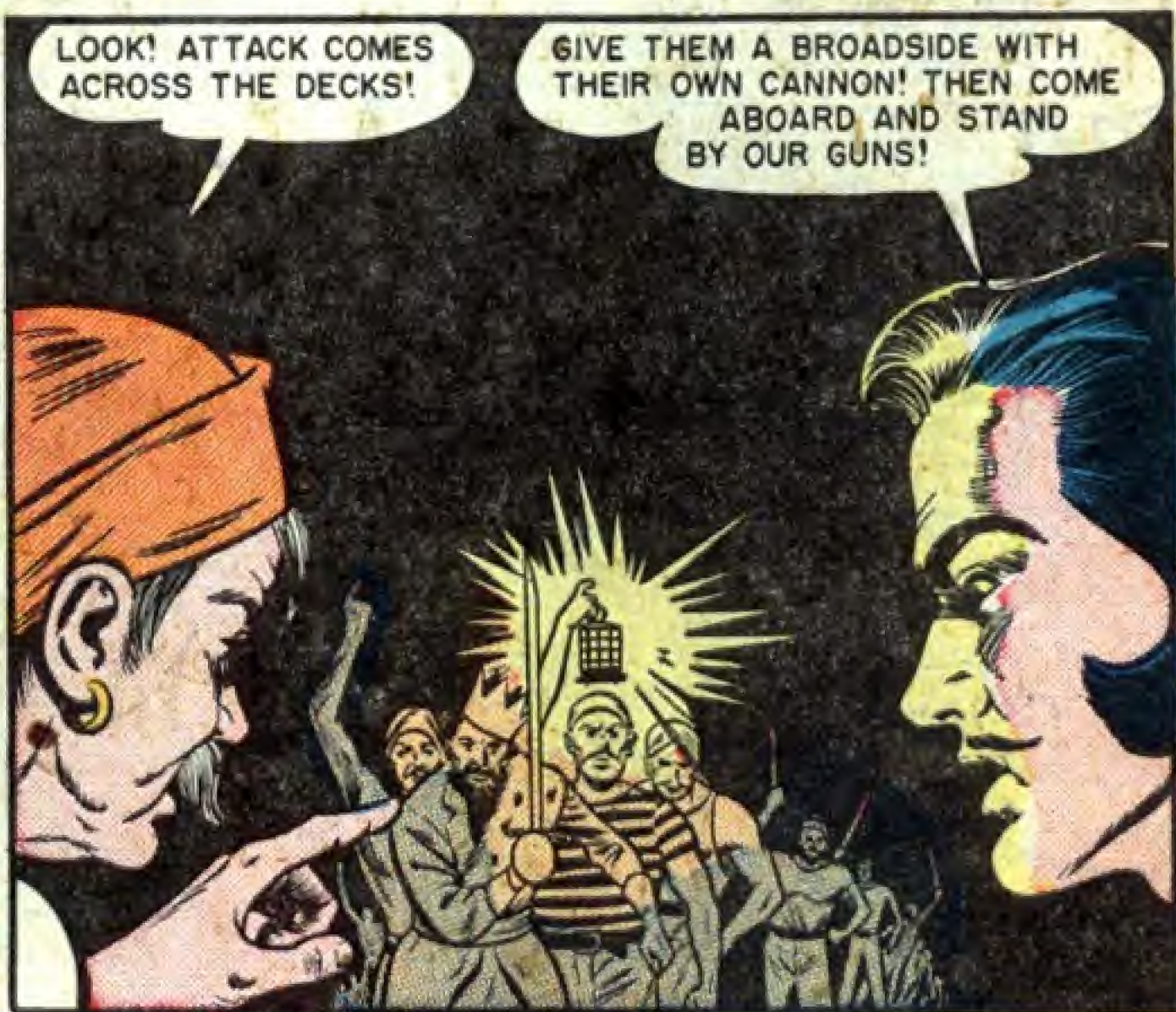
IN THE CONFUSION,
HE BROKE AWAY
FROM HIS GUARDS!

NO MATTER NOW! AS
A HOSTAGE HE HAD
SPENT HIS USEFULNESS!
BUT THE STORM
APPROACHES...



WE'VE REPULSED
'EM, CAP'N DARING!

THEN ALL HANDS CUT
AWAY THE GRAPPLES!
WE'LL TRY TO ESCAPE ON
THE REVENGE WHEN THE
WIND COMES!



LOOK! ATTACK COMES
ACROSS THE DECKS!

GIVE THEM A BROADSIDE WITH
THEIR OWN CANNON! THEN COME
ABOARD AND STAND
BY OUR GUNS!



FIRE....!



ALL ABOARD! GRAB PIKES
AND STAND BY TO FEND OFF
THE MOMENT OUR SAILS
FILL!

AYE, AYE,
SIR!



THINK YOU WE MIGHT ESCAPE, CAPTAIN DARING?

IF OUR RIGGING HOLDS, WE'VE A CHANCE, DOLORES! THE FURY OF THE WIND EXCEEDS THE PULL OF THE DREADFUL CURRENT!



WE'RE PULLING AWAY! DOUBLE-LASH THOSE STAYS!

WITH THE CAPTAIN'S PERMISSION, I'D LIKE TO GIVE THEM A FINAL SHOT FROM THE STERN CHASER!



GRANTED, PATCH!

THANKEE, SIR!

BOOM!



YOU MUST HAVE HIT THEIR POWDER MAGAZINE, PATCH!

AYE! THAT'LL KEEP 'EM TOO BUSY TO THINK OF SPREADING SAIL AND COPYING OUR ESCAPE!



AND WITH THE DAWN...

LOOK, MY LADY! THE STORM ABATES AND WE STILL FORGE AHEAD! THAT MEANS WE ARE BEYOND THE PULL OF THE DREADFUL CURRENT!

AND BEYOND THE NIGHTMARE OF THAT AWFUL KINGDOM!



OUR BEARINGS INDICATE WE'LL RAISE ILLYRIA ISLAND BY SUNDOWN! YOU CAN SEND APOLOGIES TO THE SPANISH GOVERNOR!

AND YOU CAN RELAX IN ILLYRIA AND FIND TIME TO ESCORT ME TO THE AUTUMN BALLS, MY CAPTAIN!



NOT FOR LONG, DOLORES! NOW THAT WE'VE SHOWN THE WAY OF ESCAPE, OTHERS MAY RETURN FROM THE LAND OF THE LOST TO FRESH PIRACIES!

MANY PEOPLE HATE PIRATES... BUT NONE CAN HATE THEM WITH SO PERSONAL A HATE AS I DO!

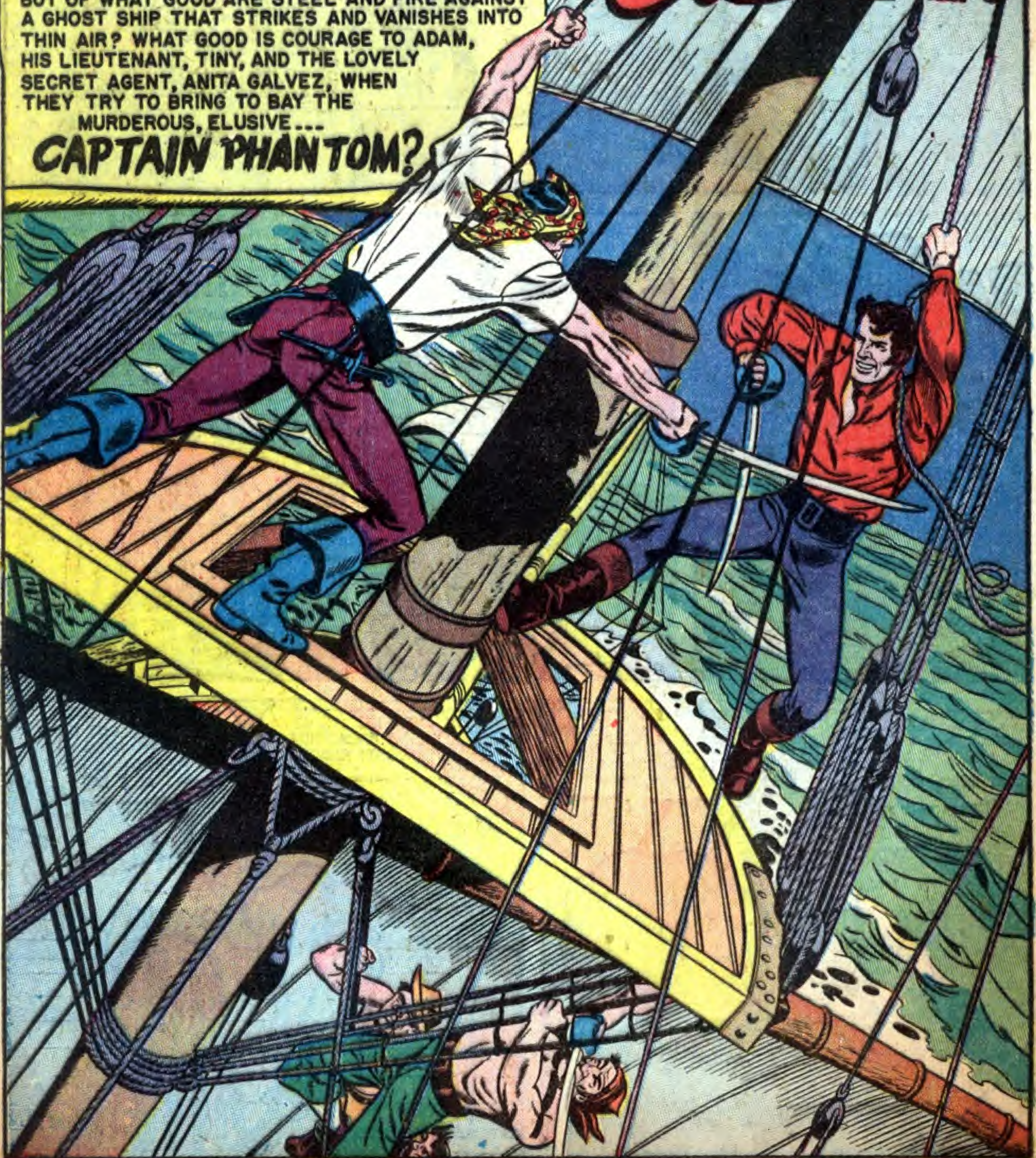
ADAM PERIL

ADAM PERIL OF THE U.S. NAVY HAS BEEN SENT BY PRESIDENT JEFFERSON TO CLEAR THE GULF OF MEXICO OF BLOODY PIRATES WHOSE DARK INTRIGUES IMPERIL THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OUR YOUNG NATION! A TASK OF FIRE AND STEEL? AYE! BUT OF WHAT GOOD ARE STEEL AND FIRE AGAINST A GHOST SHIP THAT STRIKES AND VANISHES INTO THIN AIR? WHAT GOOD IS COURAGE TO ADAM, HIS LIEUTENANT, TINY, AND THE LOVELY SECRET AGENT, ANITA GALVEZ, WHEN THEY TRY TO BRING TO BAY THE

MURDEROUS, ELUSIVE...

CAPTAIN PHANTOM?

U.S.N.



BUCCANEERS

TO SEEK A PHANTOM IS ONE THING...
BUT TO FIND HIM IS ANOTHER!

FURIES! HOW MUCH
LONGER MUST THIS
BLIND SEARCH GO
ON? IN THREE WEEKS
WE'VE FOUND NOT A
HAIR OF CAPTAIN
PHANTOM!

PATIENCE,
ADAM! WE
KNOW HIS
BRIG, THE
FLYING GHOST
IS RANGING THE
GULF SOMEWHERE
NEARBY!

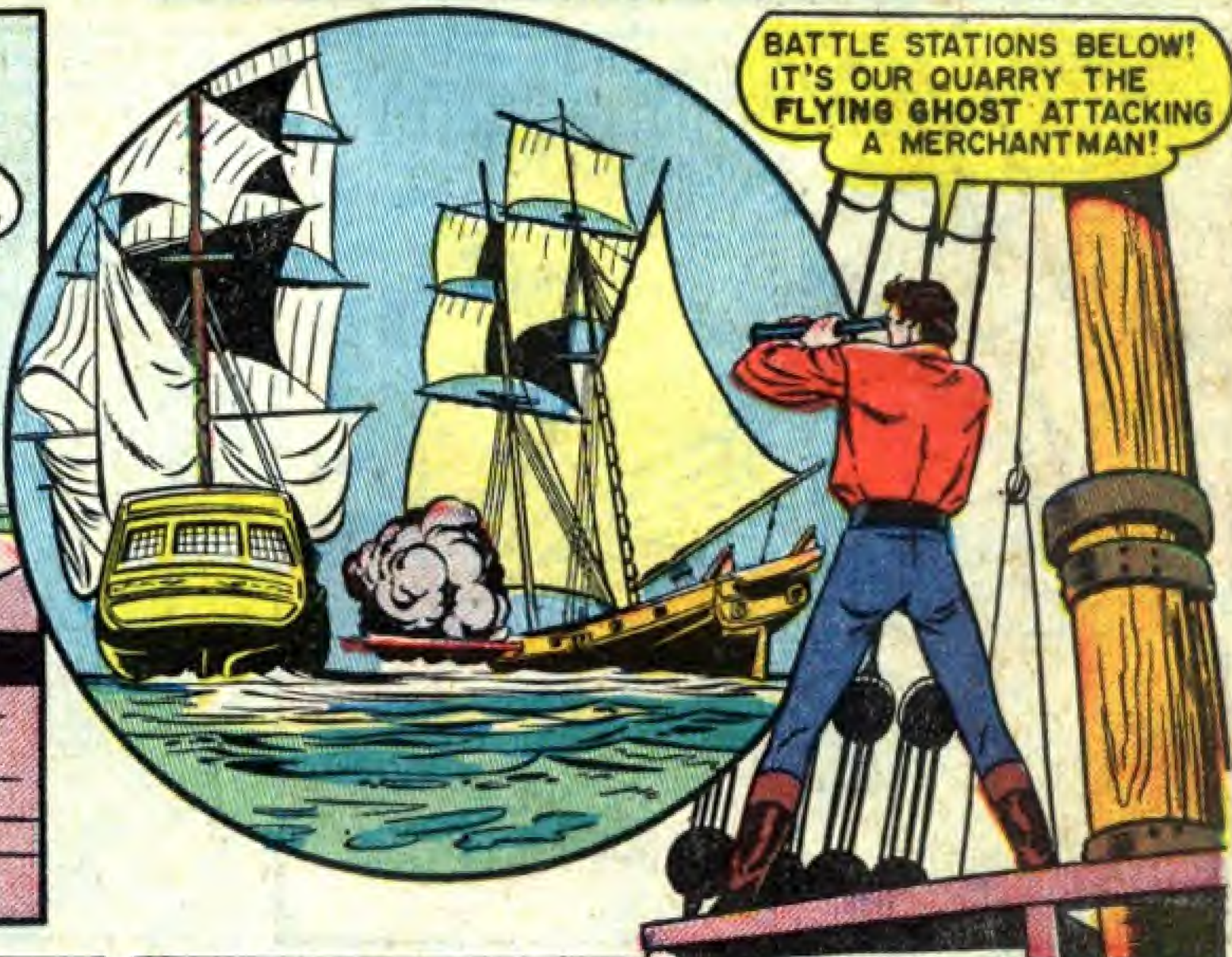
WE KNOW HE PREYS
ON UNARMED MER-
CHANTMEN BUT AVOIDS
BATTLE...

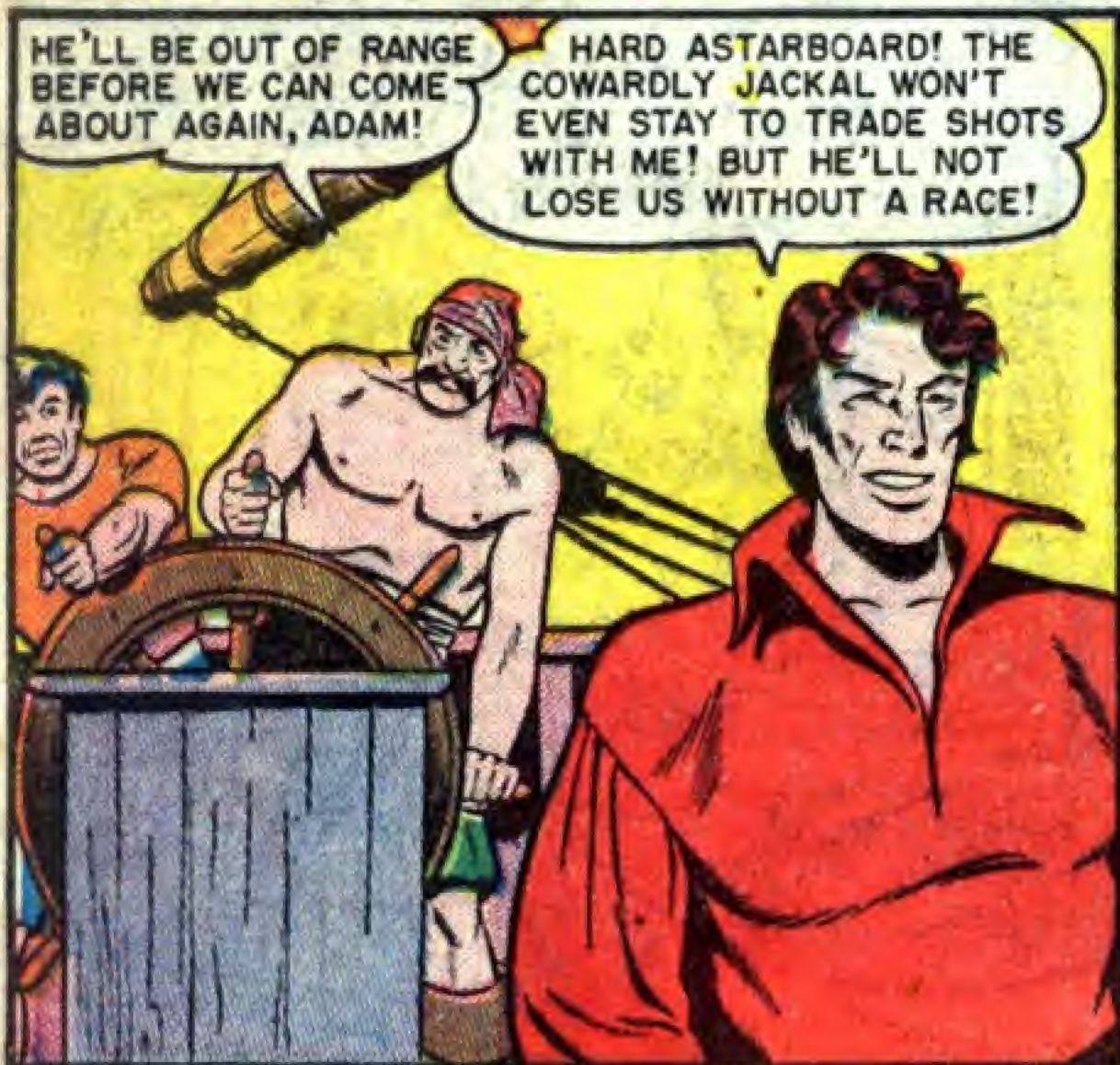
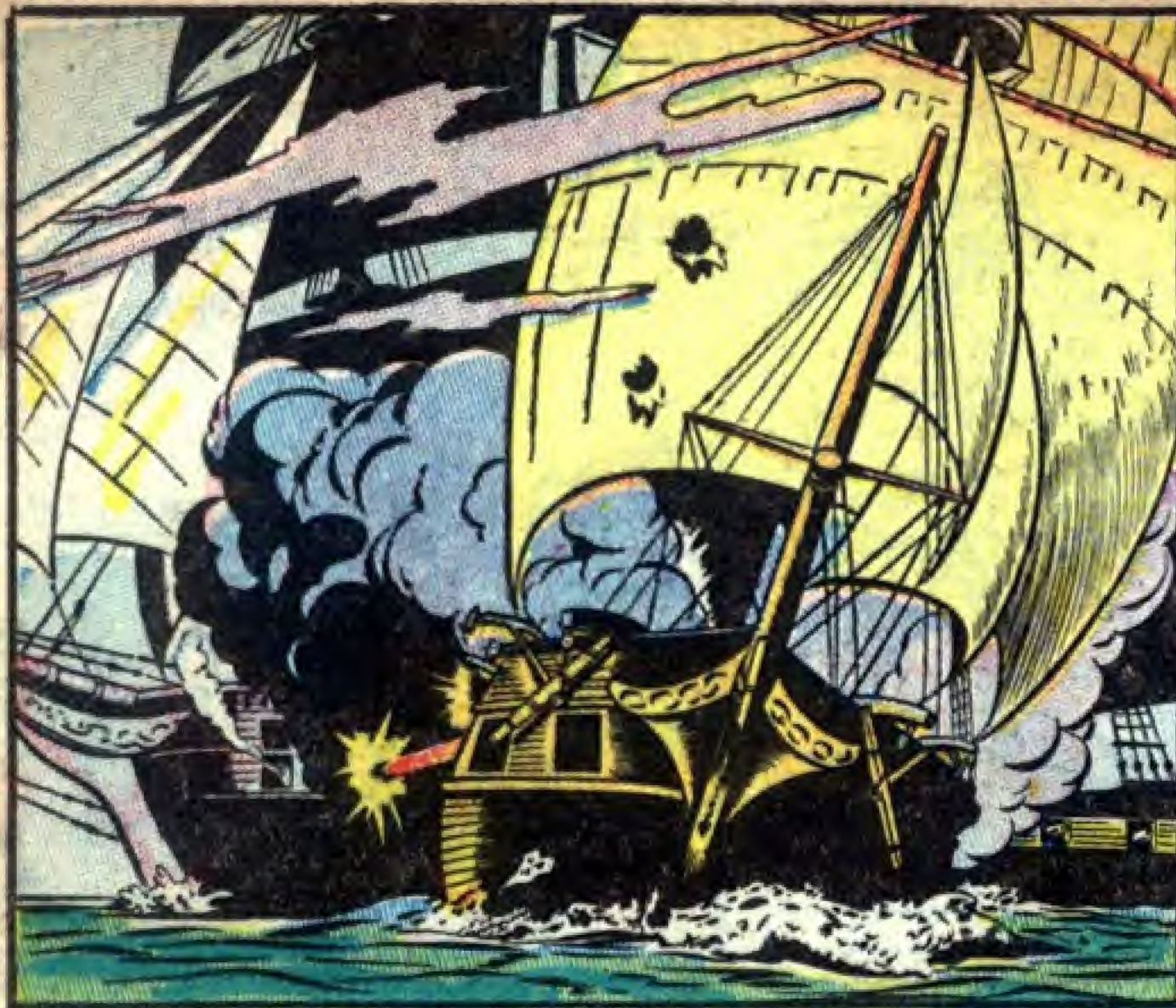
HARKEE, CAP'N
PERIL! IS THAT
THUNDER OR
GUNFIRE I
HEAR?

IT CAN'T BE THUNDER
FROM A CLEAR SKY!

'TIS GUNFIRE
FROM BEHIND
YON ISLAND!
CHANGE HER COURSE
TWO POINTS TO PORT!

BOOM!





HE'LL BE OUT OF RANGE BEFORE WE CAN COME ABOUT AGAIN, ADAM!

HARD ASTARBOARD! THE COWARDLY JACKAL WON'T EVEN STAY TO TRADE SHOTS WITH ME! BUT HE'LL NOT LOSE US WITHOUT A RACE!

AHOY, THE DANDY! CAN YOU HOLD OUT WHILE WE GIVE CHASE TO THE ROVER? WE'LL RETURN TO TAKE YOU OFF!

AYE! WE MEAN TO BEACH ON YONDER ISLAND AND TRY TO SAVE OUR CARGO! GOOD LUCK, RAIDER!

'TIS NO USE, ADAM! THE FLYING GHOST CAN SHOW HER HEELS TO ANY SHIP IN THESE WATERS!

BUT HE'S HEADING FOR THE LOUISIANA COAST, ANITA! MAYHAP WE CAN DISCOVER HIS HIDING PLACE!

ADAM! HE'S STANDING IN AROUND THAT POINT!

STAND TO YOUR GUNS, LADS! WE MAY YET GET THE KNAVE TO STAND AND FIGHT!

WHY... THE FLYING GHOST HAS COMPLETELY VANISHED! THERE'S NOT A SIGN OF HER ANYWHERE!

SHE VANISHED INTO ONE OF THOSE BAYOUS... BUT THERE'S NO KNOWING WHICH ONE AND 'T WOULD BE FOLLY TO PLUNGE IN BLINDLY!

AYE! YOU'D STICK FAST IN MUD WHILE CAP'N PHANTOM WHISKED OUT ANOTHER CHANNEL! WE'VE BEEN NEATLY FOXED!



THEY SAY A SHIP CAN FOLLOW THE BAYOUS CLEAR TO NEW ORLEANS! BELIKE, THAT'S WHERE HE'LL HEAD TO SELL HIS PLUNDER!

THEN WE'LL SET COURSE FOR NEW ORLEANS, TOO! WE'LL TAKE ON STORES AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND ERE WE RETURN TO PICK UP THAT MERCHANT CREW!



I HAD ONE GOOD LOOK AT CAPTAIN PHANTOM! I'D KNOW HIS EVIL FACE ANYWHERE! IF WE SHOULD MEET...

I DREAD THAT DAY, ADAM! RUMOR HAS IT CAPTAIN PHANTOM IS A FIERCE AND DEADLY SWORDSMAN!



TWO DAYS LATER, AT THE PORT OF SPANISH NEW ORLEANS...

PROCURE THE STORES AND HAVE THEM LOADED, TINY! WE'LL SCOUT THE WATERFRONT AND RETURN BY DARK!

CAPTAIN PHANTOM MAY KNOW YOUR FACE, TOO, ADAM!

AYE, AYE, SIR! BEWARE OF TROUBLE!



HERE'S THE FAVORITE LAIR OF THE SEA-ROVERS, ANITA! DO I LOOK FIT TO ENTER?

YOU HAVE THE LOOK OF A FREE-BOOTER ALL RIGHT, ADAM! TOUGH, RECKLESS AND SEA-WEATHERED!



HQ, WE WOULD DINE WITH YOU, M'LADY! TROT OUT THE CHOICEST OF VICTUALS FOR A HUNGRY PAIR OF SEA-FARERS!

AYE, CAP'N! AND I TRUST YOU HAD A...ER... PROFITABLE VOYAGE! THEM AS DOES GIVES ME NICE PRESENTS, THEY DO!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

ANITA, 'TIS HE... CAPTAIN PHANTOM! I'D KNOW THE SNEERING FACE ANYWHERE!

ADAM, SIT DOWN, I PRAY YOU! IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN...



HALF THESE PATRONS ARE PIRATES! THINK YOU THAT YOU'D LIVE FIVE MINUTES AFTER CHALLENGING CAPTAIN PHANTOM!

BUT WHAT CAN I DO? THERE SITS THE MAN I'M SWORN TO DESTROY!



IF YOU MUST... ALLOW ME! NO BUCCANEER WOULD INTERFERE... IF TWO PIRATES FOUGHT OVER A GIRL!

ANITA, YOU ARE PRICELESS! PRESIDENT JEFFERSON KNEW WELL HIS MIND WHEN HE CHOSE YOU AS HIS AGENT!



HAH! NOW THERE'S A FILLY I'D FAIN HAVE IN MY STABLE! COME HERE, LASS!

ME? YOU BIG, BOLD CAPTAIN?



I MEAN NO ONE ELSE, GIRL! GIVE US A KISS!

UNHAND THAT GIRL, YOU LUBBERLY SWAB! OR SLINK AWAY LIKE THE WENCH-STEALING KNAVE YOU ARE! SHE'S MINE!



WHY, YOU NOISY COCKEREL! I'LL SPIT YOU LIKE AN OVER-HUNG BEEF!

BLUSTER AWAY, DANDY-BOY! MY STEEL WILL UNHINGE YOUR YAMMER!



HOLD! I RECOGNIZE THAT FACE NOW! I SAW IT FULL CLEAR THROUGH THE CANNON SMOKE! YOU ARE ---



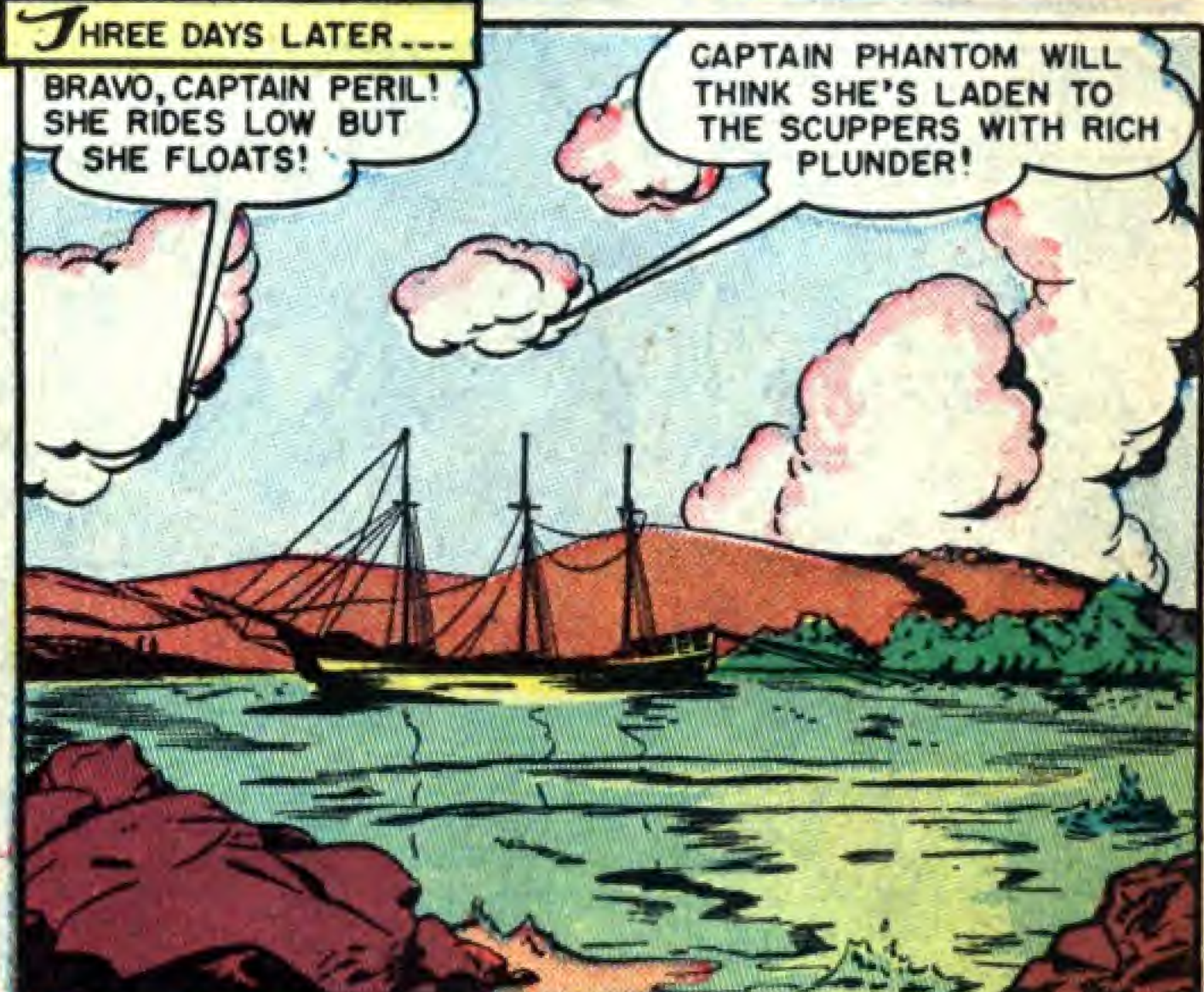
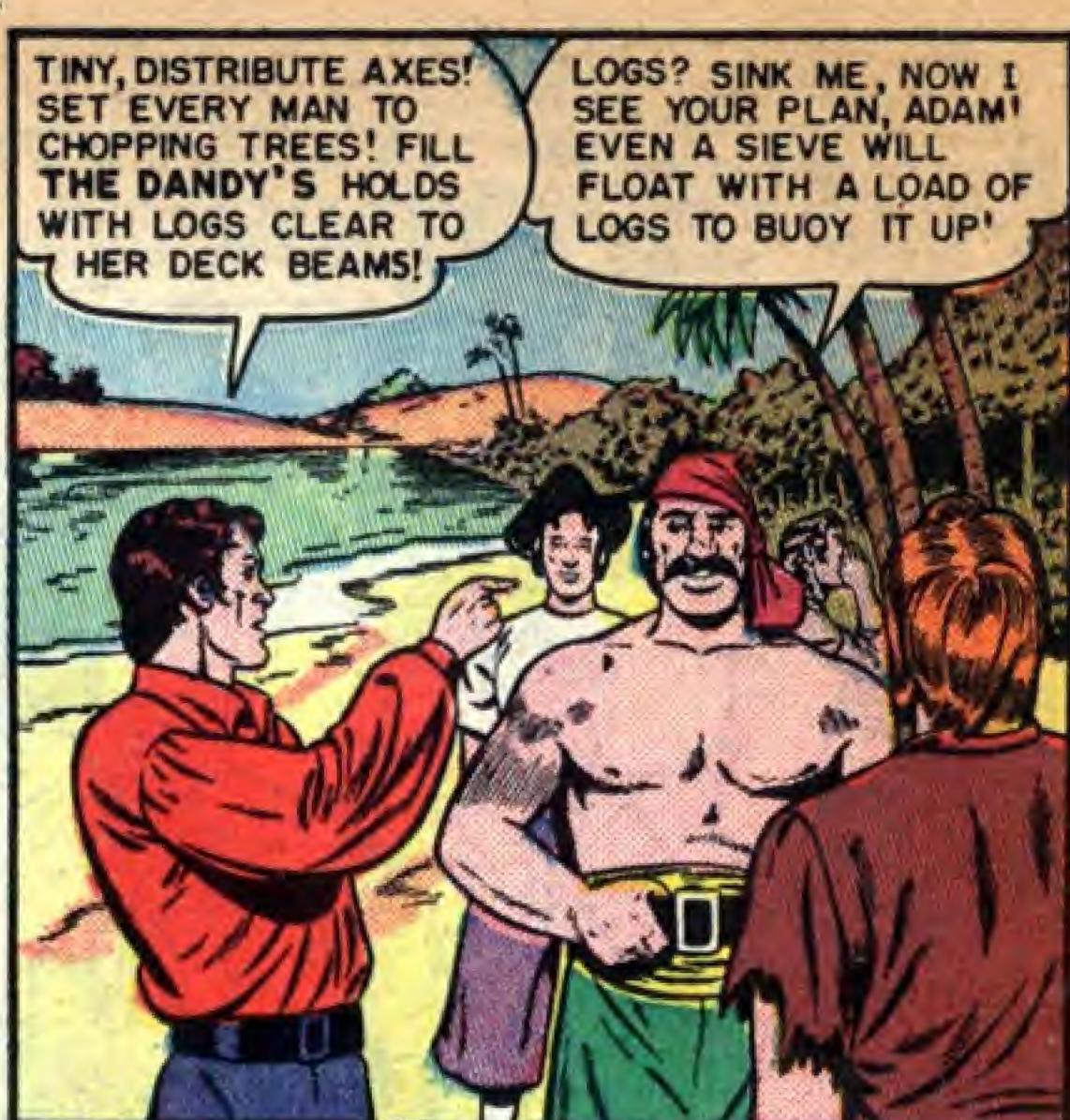
AHOY, FREE-BOOTERS! DESTROY THIS SPY ERE HE DESTROYS YOU! NOT TWO DAYS PAST, HIS SHIP DROVE MINE FROM LAWFUL PREY!

A SPY? RUN HIM THROUGH! SCUPPER THE DIRTY LAW-LOVER!



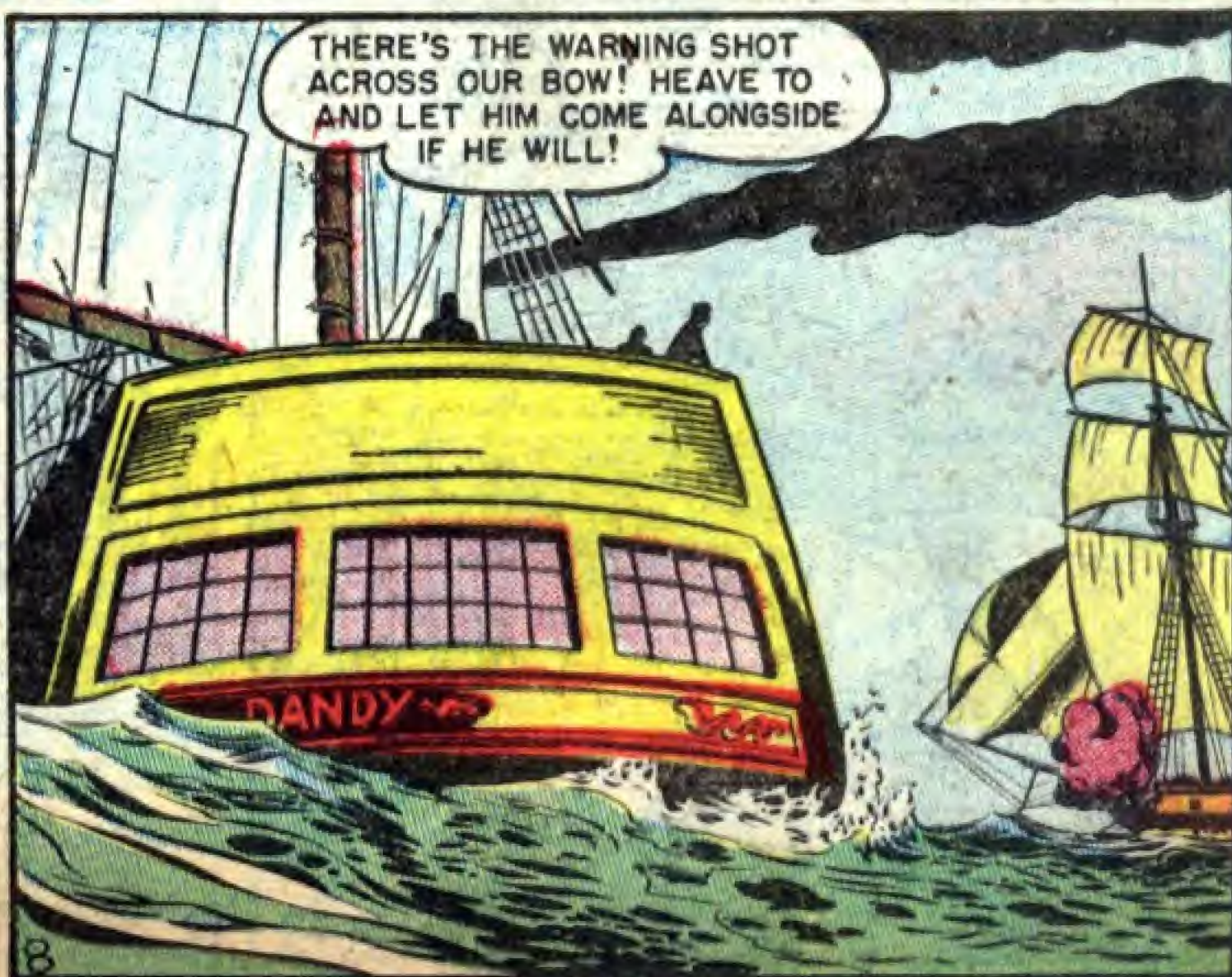
IN A MOMENT THE TABLES ARE TURNED...



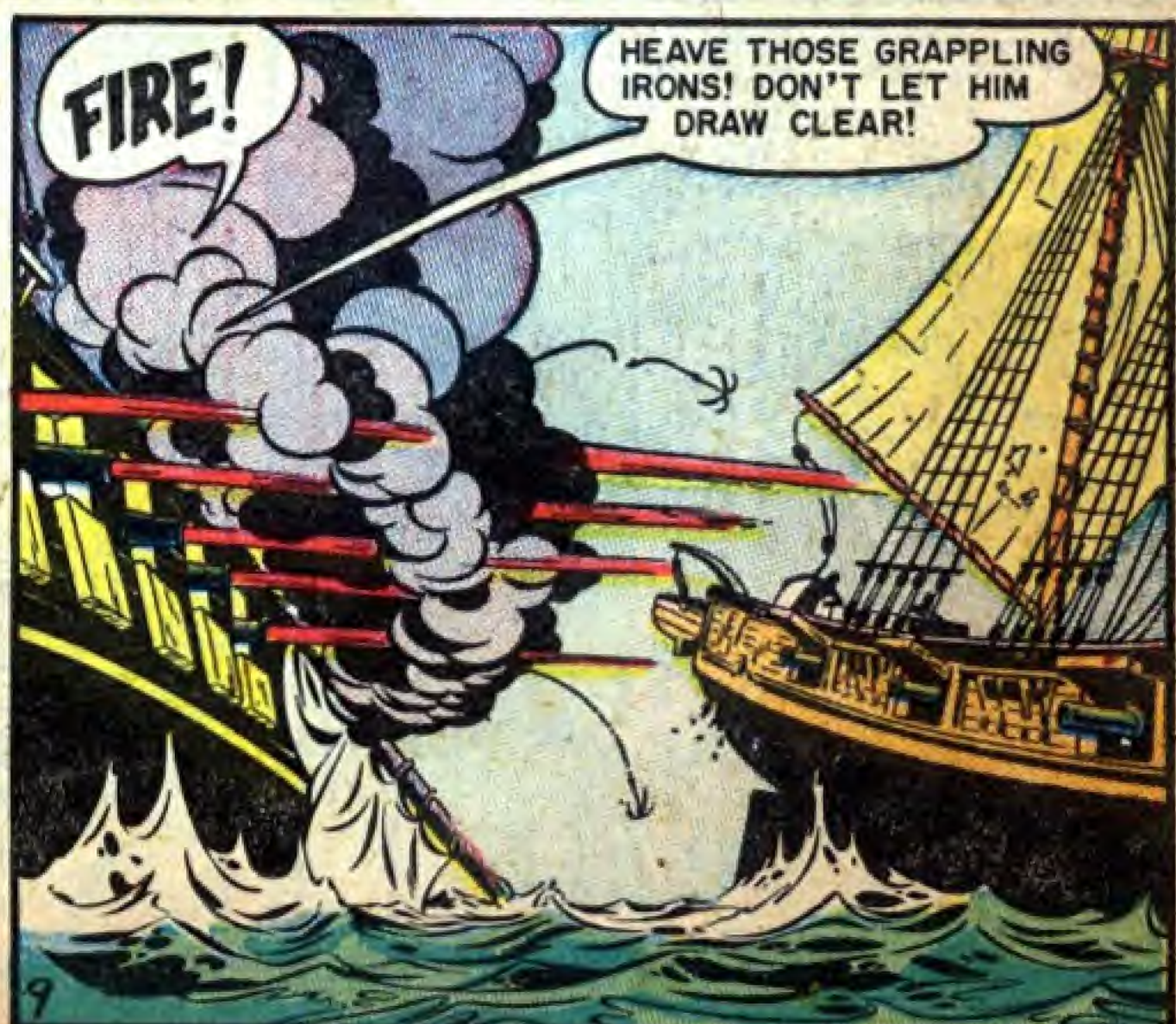
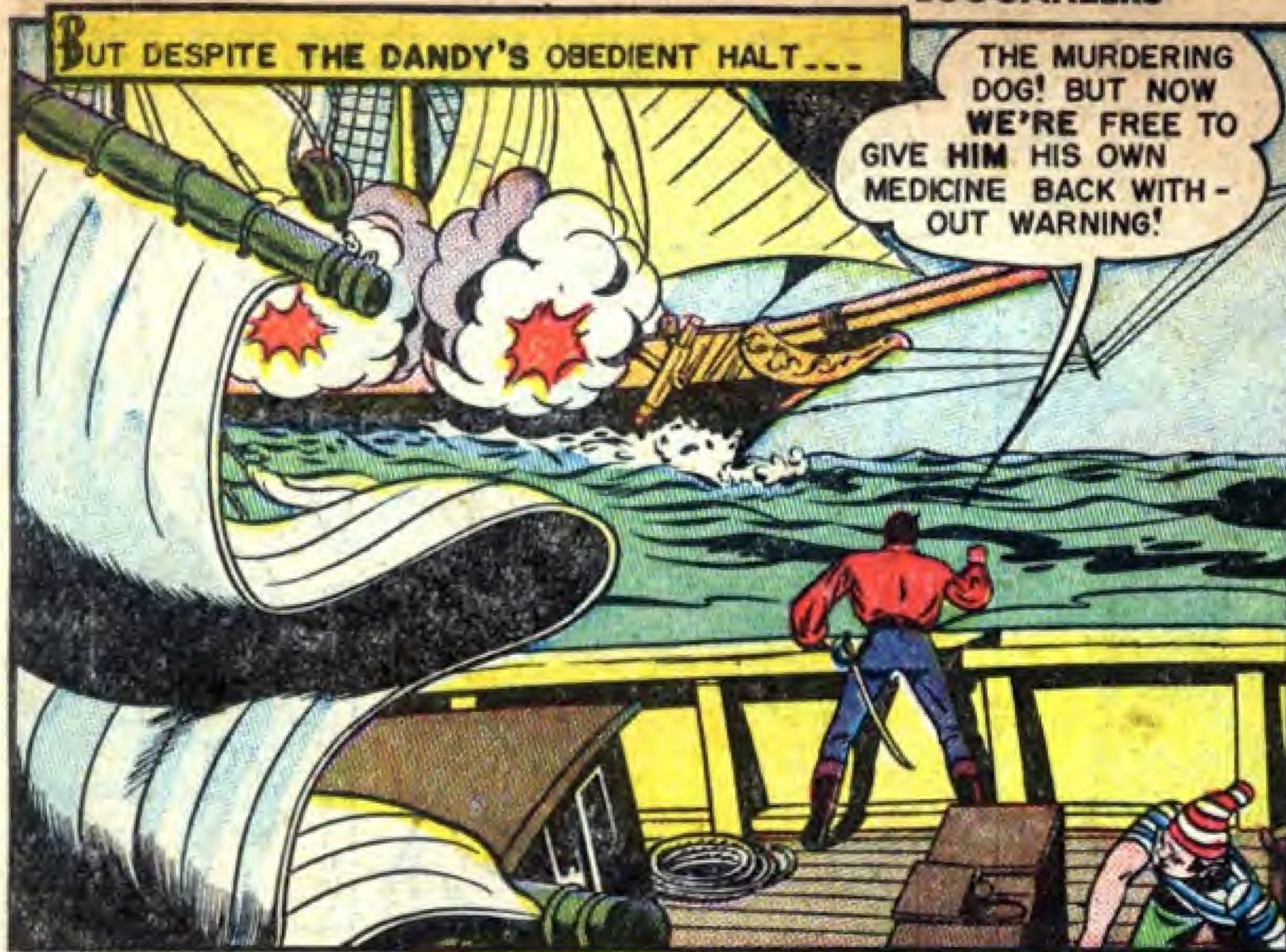




THERE FOLLOW TENSE DAYS OF WAITING AND WATCHING THE EMPTY SEA!



BUCCANEERS





CAPTAIN PHANTOM, YOU YELLOW DOG! WHERE ARE YOU? COME OUT AND FIGHT!

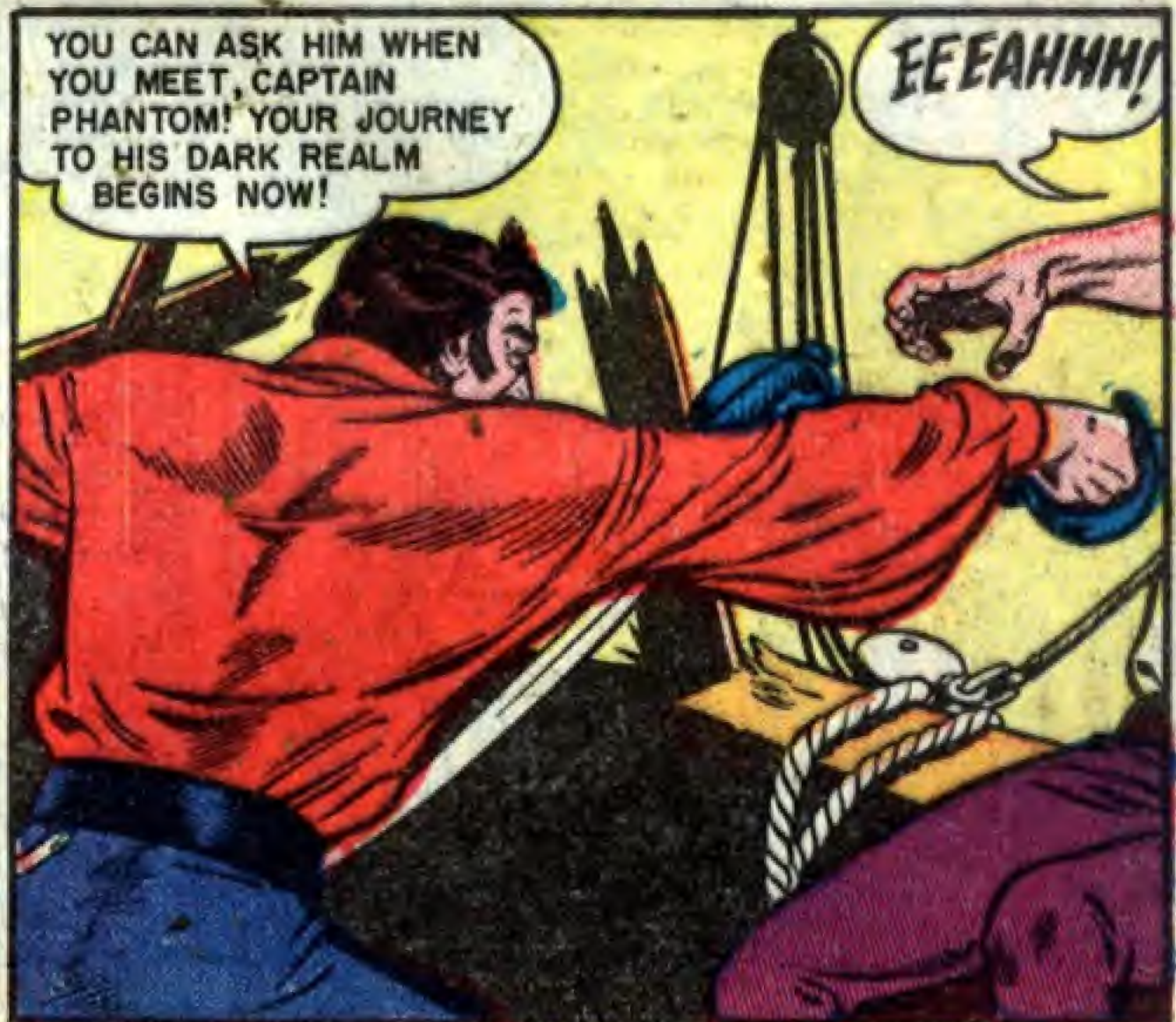


HERE I AM, YOU SNEAKING SPY!



WHA...? TREACHEROUS TO THE END, I SEE!

THE FIEND HIMSELF MUST PROTECT YOU!



YOU CAN ASK HIM WHEN YOU MEET, CAPTAIN PHANTOM! YOUR JOURNEY TO HIS DARK REALM BEGINS NOW!

EEEEHHH!



WELL DONE, CAP'N PERIL! THESE DOGS'LL FATTEN NO MORE ON HONEST SAILORS!

WE'LL TAKE OVER THE FLYING GHOST AND SET COURSE BACK TO THE ISLAND!



THE TRIUMPHANT REUNION...

THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS OF CAPTAIN PHANTOM'S LOOT ARE DEAD! WE'LL DIVIDE IT AMONG THE CREWS THAT MADE POSSIBLE OUR VICTORY!

HOORAH! THREE CHEERS FOR CAP'N ADAM PERIL!



YOU SIGHED, ADAM! IS IT THOUGHTS OF ROMANCE, MAYHAP?

THERE'S NO TIME FOR ROMANCE, ANITA! I SIGHED, THINKING HOW MUCH TIME WAS SPENT IN DESTROYING ONE PIRATE WHEN SO MANY MORE STILL MURDER AND PILLAGE!

BLACK ROGER

FATE... AND HATRED OF INJUSTICE... TURNED LAWYER ROGER RANDOLPH INTO BLACK ROGER, THE SCOURGE OF THE BARBARY PIRATES! WITH HIS WARD, BARTY, BLACK ROGER HAS FACED A HUNDRED DEADLY PERILS IN HIS SINGLE-HANDED WAR AGAINST THE MOSLEM RAIDERS! BUT NEVER HAVE THEY WALKED SO NEAR DESTRUCTION AS WHEN THE LOVELY, TREACHEROUS PRINCESS SHAREEN DREW THEM INTO THE DEATH TRAP KNOWN AS... "THE JAWS OF ALLAH!"



ALL THE MOSLEM INGENUITY HAS BEEN TURNED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR HATED ENEMY...

WOW, ROGER! THAT'S THE BIGGEST GALLEY THEY EVER SENT AGAINST US! METHINKS IT'S TIME TO UNVEIL OUR SURPRISE!

MAYHAP YOU'RE RIGHT, BARTY! HE DRAWS WITHIN RANGE!

DROP THE FALSE SIDES! STAND BY FOR DOUBLE BROADSIDE!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

FIRE!

ALLAH HAVE MERCY! WE ARE SHATTERED!

BOOM!

BUCCANEERS



HE'S SMASHED TO MATCHWOOD, ROGER! HURRY! GIVE THE ORDER TO CLOSE IN AND FINISH HIM OFF!

I'M NOT GIVING THAT ORDER, BARTY....



I WANT THAT RAIDER TO MAKE PORT AND SPREAD THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM! IT MAY GIVE OTHER PIRATES PAUSE FOR THOUGHT!

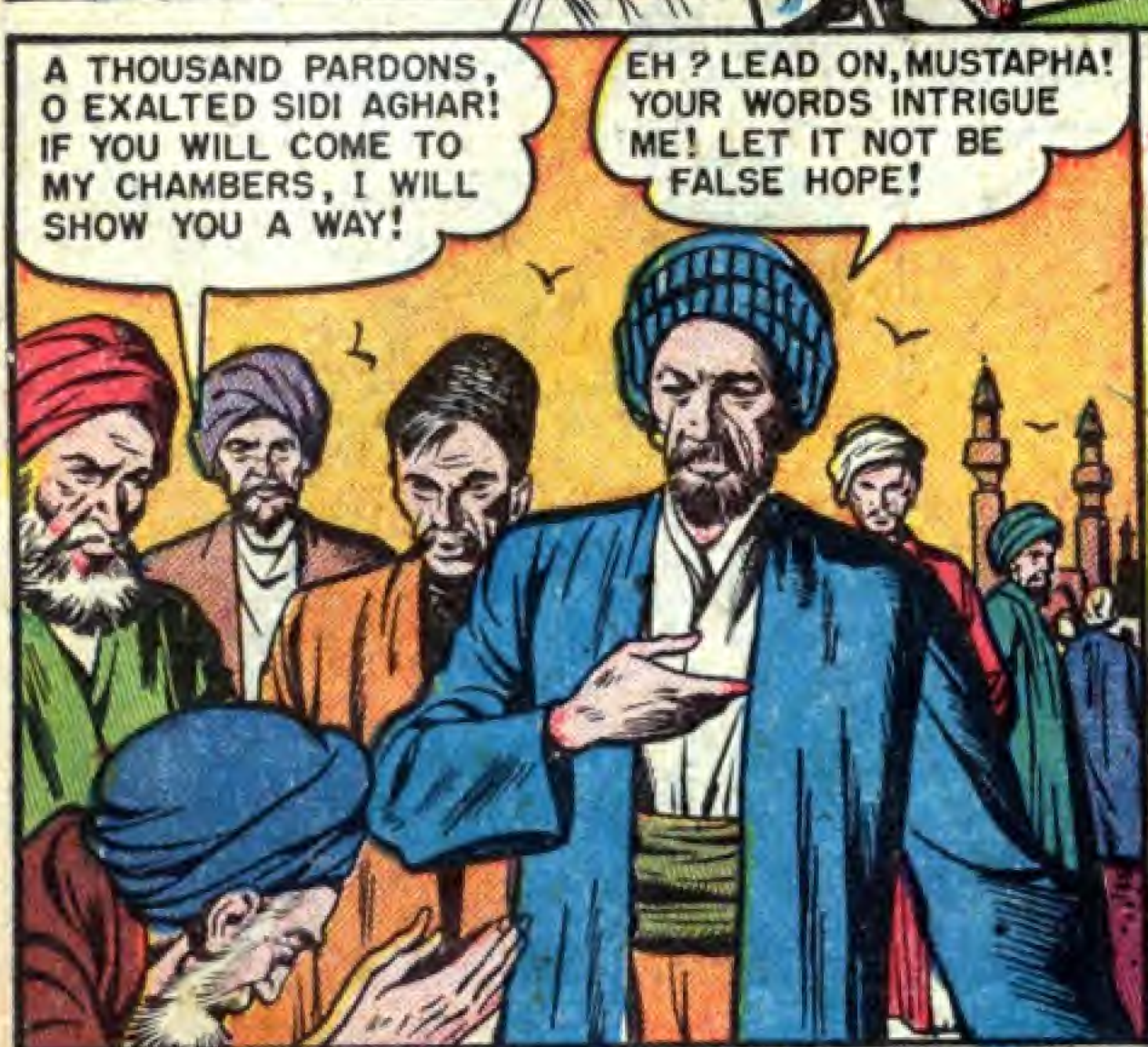
YOU'RE RIGHT, ROGER! WHEN THEY HEAR HIS STORY, THEY'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE COMING AFTER US AGAIN!



WHEN THE WRECKED GALLEY REACHES PORT..

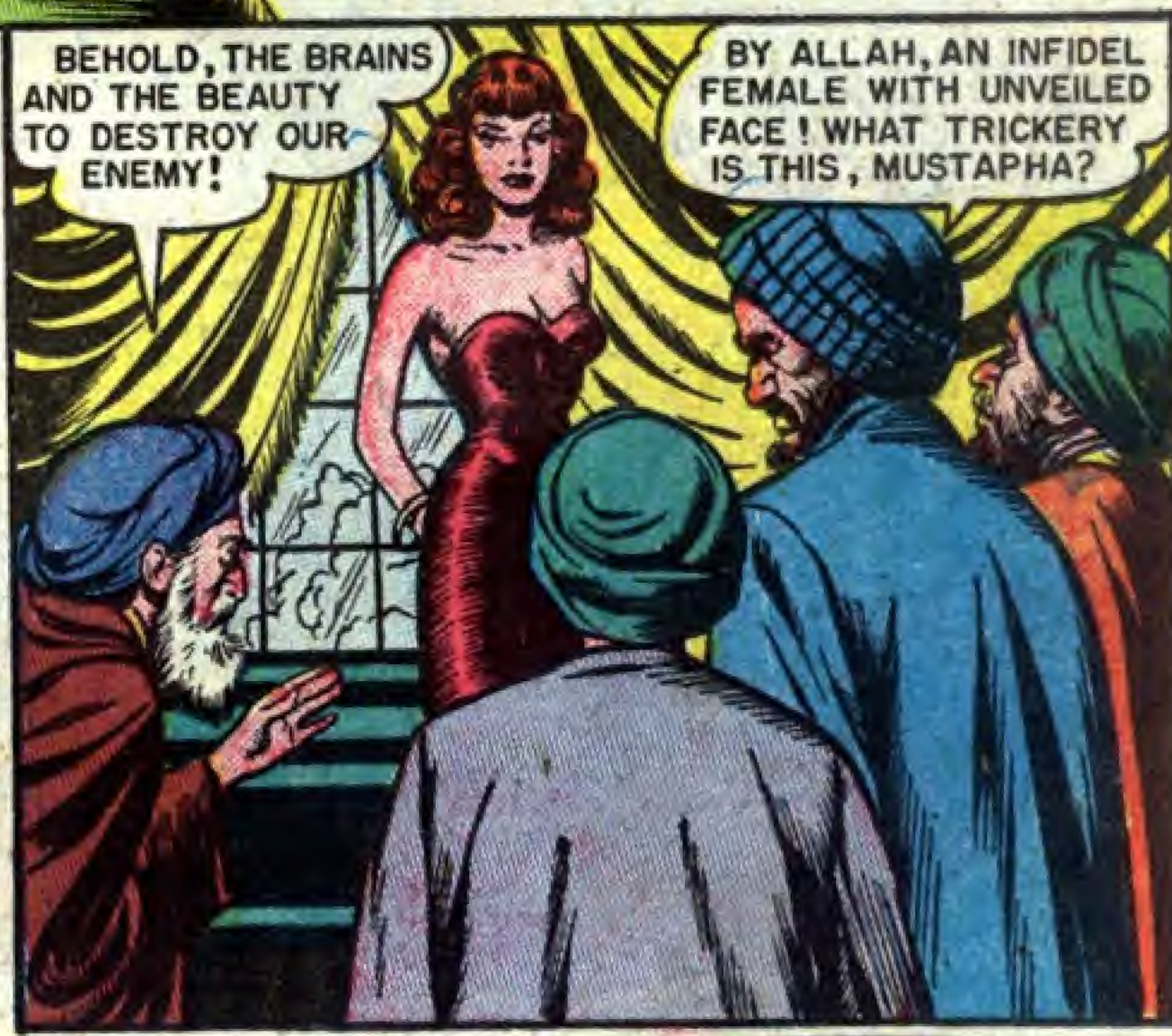
WE ARE UNDONE, SIDI AGHAR! BLACK ROGER, THE INFIDEL FIEND, UNVEILED BATTERIES OF MASKED CANNON TO SMASH US!

EITHER WE MUST FIND A WAY TO DESTROY BLACK ROGER, OR FOREGO PIRACY FOR OTHER PURSUITS!



A THOUSAND PARDONS, O EXALTED SIDI AGGAR! IF YOU WILL COME TO MY CHAMBERS, I WILL SHOW YOU A WAY!

EH? LEAD ON, MUSTAPHA! YOUR WORDS INTRIGUE ME! LET IT NOT BE FALSE HOPE!



BEHOLD, THE BRAINS AND THE BEAUTY TO DESTROY OUR ENEMY!

BY ALLAH, AN INFIDEL FEMALE WITH UNVEILED FACE! WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS, MUSTAPHA?



HOLD! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE PRINCESS SHAREEN, DAUGHTER OF ISMAEL, WHO DIED FIGHTING BLACK ROGER AT SEA?

SHE WHO WAS SENT TO STUDY INFIDEL CUSTOMS AND LANGUAGE IN THE NORTH! A THOUSAND PARDONS, OH PRINCESS! WE KNEW YOU NOT!



THEN BLACK ROGER WOULD BE EQUALLY FOOLED! LISTEN WHILE I UNFOLD A PLAN TO TRAP AND DESTROY HIM WHOM I HATE ABOVE ALL ELSE!

WE LISTEN, PRINCESS! SPEAK WORDS OF WISDOM THAT YOUR HONORED FATHER MAY BE AVENGED!



YOU KNOW THAT TREACHEROUS PASS WE CALL THE JAWS OF ALLAH! NOW LISTEN WHILE I UNFOLD MY THOUGHTS!



A FEW DAYS LATER...

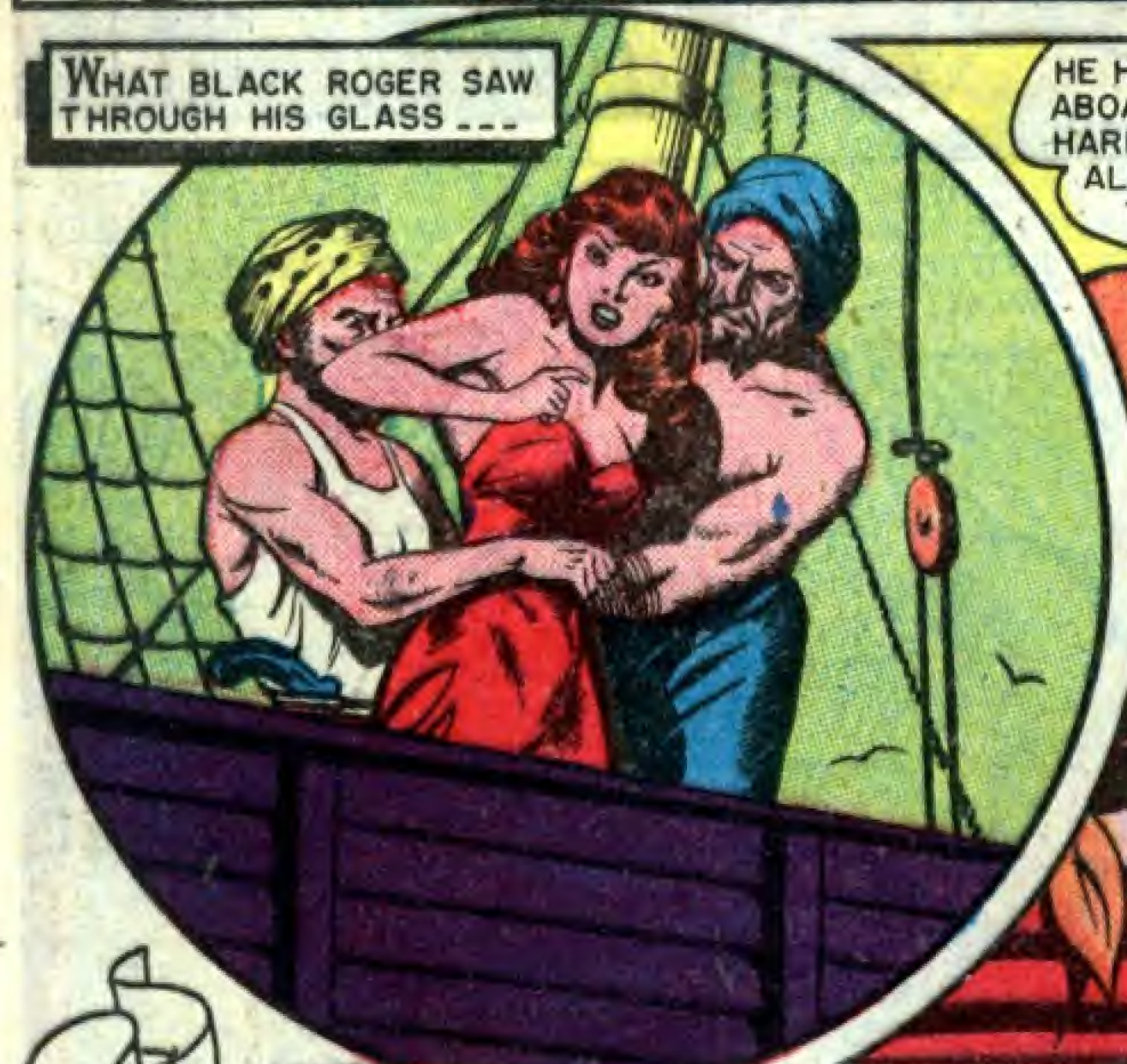
A MOSLEM GALLEY HEADED FOR PORT! BESEEMS HE HAS NO STOMACH FOR A FIGHT! ORDER THE GUNS RUN OUT, BARTY! WE'LL HALT HIM!

MAYHAP HE'S BEEN RAIDING OUR SHIPPING, ROGER, AND IS LOW ON POWDER AND SHOT! I'LL BRING A SPY-GLASS!



CAN YOU MAKE OUT AUGHT AMISS WITH HIM?

YOU WERE RIGHT, BARTY! HOLD FIRE!



WHAT BLACK ROGER SAW THROUGH HIS GLASS...

HE HAS A GIRL CAPTIVE ABOARD! WE CAN'T RISK HARMING HER! CROWD ON ALL SAIL AND OVERTAKE THE MOSLEM DOG!

HE HAS OARS BUT WE CARRY MORE SAIL! WE'LL CLOSE WITH HIM SOON!



WHILE ON THE CORSAIR...

WELL DONE, FAITHFUL! I SAW THE GLINT OF SUNLIGHT ON HIS SPYGLASS! HE'LL NOT OPEN FIRE NOW, LEST HE HARM YOUR...ER...CAPTIVE!

'TIS SMART, PRINCESS! HE SWALLOWED THE BAIT LIKE YOU PLANNED!



AN HOUR LATER...

'STAB ME, ROGER, HE FLEES LIKE THE COWARD HE IS! AND THERE HE FINDS HAVEN IN YON NARROW PASS!

ORDER THE HELMSMAN TO FOLLOW, BARTY! THAT PASS LEADS INTO A NARROW INLET WHERE HE CAN'T ESCAPE US!



HAVE YOU THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A MOSLEM TRAP, ROGER?

AYE, BARTY! BUT WE MUST RESCUE THAT POOR GIRL AT ALL COSTS! WE'VE FOUGHT OUR WAY OUT OF MOSLEM TRAPS BEFORE!



ROGER, IT LOOKS LIKE OUR FINISH! THERE'S NO HOPE OF ESCAPE THROUGH THAT PASS AND WE'D BE DOOMED ON FOOT IN MOSLEM TERRITORY!

IT LOOKS BAD INDEED, BARTY... BUT I'VE LITTLE USE FOR DESPAIR! WE'VE BEATEN DEATH AT HIS OWN MISERABLE GAME ERE NOW!

LADS, SEND A FEW CANNON BALLS INTO THOSE WOODS EVERY FEW MINUTES! KEEP THE MOSLEMS BACK AT SAFE DISTANCE!

IF YOU'VE A TRICK TO GET US OUT OF THIS, I'M PANTING TO SEE IT!

ACCORDING TO THE CHARTS, THERE'S ANOTHER INLET JUST BEYOND THESE WOODS, ONE WITH A WIDE PASS BACK TO THE SEA!

OF COURSE, ROGER! WE AWAIT A FAIR WIND AND SAIL RIGHT OVER THE TREES INTO THE OTHER INLET! I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT!

EXACTLY, BARTY, MY LAD! 'TIS A SPLENDID IDEA AND ONE WE'LL SET IN MOTION AT ONCE! YOU'VE A SHARP WIT FOR WINNING TRICKS!

ULP! I HAVE? I THOUGHT I WAS JUST BEING FUNNY!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE MOSLEM CITY...

PRINCESS, BLACK ROGER'S SHIP IS BOMBARDING THE WOODS WITH ALL CANNON! WE BUT ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES!

FOOLS! KNAVES! WHAT IF THE INFIDEL ESCAPES WHILE YOU LEAVE THE WOODS UNGUARDED?

HOLD, SIDI AGHAR! LET THE UNBELIEVERS WASTE POWDER! THERE IS NO ESCAPE EXCEPT THROUGH THE CITY! THEY ARE FRIGHTENED!

YOU ARE RIGHT, PRINCESS! THEY IMAGINE WE ARE GATHERING MEN IN THE WOODS! THAT IS WHY THEY BOMBARD EMPTINESS!

WHILE BACK IN THE JAWS OF ALLAH...

CEASE FIRING! OUR BALLS AND CHAIN SHOT HAVE DONE A FINE JOB OF TREE-CLEARING FOR US! ALL ASHORE TO TRIM THE TRUNKS!

BUCCANEERS

AS THE NIGHT ADVANCES, BLACK ROGER'S PLAN GROWS CLEAR!

I APOLOGIZE, ROGER! YOU ARE FLYING OVER THE TREES TO THE OTHER INLET WITH OUR SAILS SPREAD! THE TREE TRUNKS ARE ROLLERS NOW!

THE NIGHT WIND FROM THE SEA IS ENOUGH TO HELP US ROLL THE SHIP, BARTY! WITHOUT ITS AID, THE WEIGHT WOULD BE TOO GREAT!

WHILE IN THE CITY---

I LIKE NOT THIS WAITING, PRINCESS! SEE THOSE FIRES? THE INFIDEL DOGS ARE UP TO SOME MISCHIEF, I SWOW!

VERY WELL! MY JUDGEMENT IS TO KEEP THEM PENNED UNTIL STARVATION DEFEATS THEM, BUT I BOW TO YOUR IMPETUOUS NATURE...

I'LL LEAD THE MEN IN A NIGHT ATTACK! AFTER ALL, I AM EAGER TO MEET THAT BLACK ROGER FACE TO FACE---

THEN WHY NOT TURN AND ENJOY YOURSELF, PRINCESS!

WHA...? GUARDS ---HELP! SEIZE THE INFIDEL DOGS!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, PRINCESS! YOUR GUARDS ARE SLEEPING TOO SOUNDLY TO HEAR YOU! WE SANG THEM A LULLABY OF STEEL!

BUT WE ARE NOT ASLEEP, UNBELIEVERS! NOW YOU SHALL DIE!

SUCH WILD IDEAS YOU GET! STAY BACK, BARTY, AND LET ME CORRECT THEIR ERRANT FANCIES!

SHALL WE FENCE A LITTLE MORE, ERE YOU JOIN YOUR COMRADE, CORSAIR?

GOOD WORK, BLACK ROGER!

BUT WITHOUT WARNING...

HOLD, BLACK ROGER! IF YOUR STEEL STRIKES --- THEN SO DOES MINE!

WHA...? HARM ONE HAIR OF BARTY'S HEAD AND NOT EVEN MECCA ITSELF CAN HIDE YOU FROM MY AVENGING FURY!



DROP YOUR SWORD, BLACK ROGER! DROP IT OR THE BOY DIES!

IF I SURRENDER, PRINCESS... THEN WE ALL DIE! MY GUNNERS ARE TO OPEN FIRE ON THIS TOWER IF THEY DO NOT SEE MY SIGNAL SOON!



LYING DOG! YOUR GUNS ARE ON YOUR SHIP, TRAPPED FOREVER IN THE JAWS OF ALLAH! IT CANNOT ESCAPE!

NO? THEN MY INFIDEL MAGIC HAS CREATED ITS DOUBLE... AND PLACED IT WITHIN EASY CANNON SHOT, MY DEAR PRINCESS!



IT IS MAGIC! I WILL NOT BELIEVE... Oooo!

THANKS FOR DRAWING HER ATTENTION OFF THE BLADE, ROGER!



THEY SEE THE SIGNAL, ROGER! AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!

COME ALONG! WE'LL TAKE THIS WILD-CAT PRISONER AND LEAVE THE REST OF THIS DEVIL'S NEST TO THE MERCY OF OUR GUNNERS!



WAIT, BLACK ROGER! YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, I WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THESE ROVERS MANY YEARS AGO! DON'T BLAME ME IF I JOINED THEM TO SAVE MYSELF!

A PRETTY TALE, PRINCESS...



BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH... THAT YOU ARE A TRUE MOSLEM WHO LOST HER ACCENT IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS! NO MORE TRICKS, PLEASE!

DOG! PIG! FILTHY UNBELIEVER! THE FAITHFUL WILL RISE ONE DAY AND DRIVE YOU FROM THE EARTH!



WAIT NO LONGER, LADS! UNLEASH THE MIGHT OF YOUR GUNS AGAINST THIS NEST OF MURDERERS AND THIEVES!

AYE, AYE, BLACK ROGER! WE'VE WAITED OVERLONG FOR THIS PLEASURE!



WELL DONE! THEY'LL SEND NO MORE CUT-THROATS TO HARRASS OUR SHIPPING!



SON OF A CAMEL! YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE TO GLOAT! NOT EVEN THE FAITHFUL CAN NAVIGATE THE SEA PASS IN DARKNESS!

THEN WE'LL DIS-PELL THE DARK-NESS! BRING UP THE HOT SHOT, MATE!

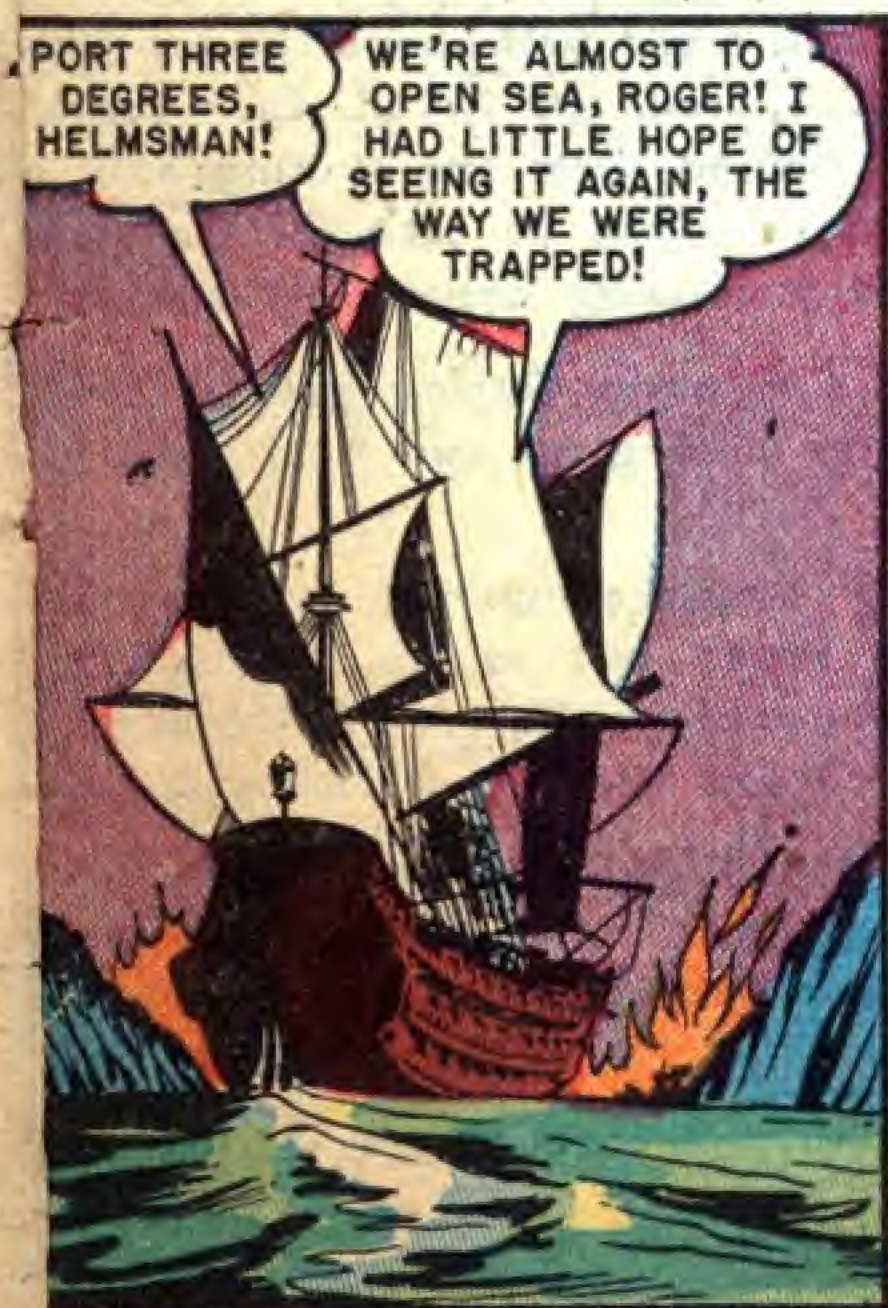


POUR HOT SHOT INTO THEIR SHIPS ALONG THE DOCK!

THOSE GALLEYS WILL BURN LIKE TINDER!



THE WHITE-HOT CANNON BALLS, RAGING THROUGH THE NIGHT, SET ROARING FIRES!



PORT THREE DEGREES, HELMSMAN!

WE'RE ALMOST TO OPEN SEA, ROGER! I HAD LITTLE HOPE OF SEEING IT AGAIN, THE WAY WE WERE TRAPPED!



THERE'S A BEACON THAT WILL DRAW THE MOSLEM PIRATES FROM MILES AROUND, ROGER! THEY'LL COME LIKE MOTHS TO THE FLAME!

AYE, AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE PENALTIES OF THEIR PIRACY! I REGRET WE LACK STORES TO STAY CLOSE AND PICK THEM OFF!



WE'LL DELIVER OUR PRISONER, TAKE ON STORES AND BE BACK TO HUNT THEM DOWN!

WE'LL COME BACK AND BACK UNTIL THE LAST BLOODY ROVER HAS FELT THE FIRE AND STEEL OF JUSTICE, BLACK ROGER!

BETRAYAL

THE first warning of danger was the far-off boom of a six-pounder, the screaming whistle of the ball and then the echoing crash that marked its flight through the woods. There were wild yells of surprise and rage as Captain Daring's crew snatched their water kegs from the spring and raced madly toward the longboat drawn up on shore. Out on the *Revenge*, at anchor in the bay, there was a wild turmoil as crewmen sprang to load guns and prepare for battle.

Patch, running to Captain Daring's side, roared, "'Twould be that blackguard, Captain Hound, who's prowling these waters. But how could he know we had put into this blind harbor for water. Not one buccaneer in a hundred even knows of this secret spot."

"We were betrayed," Captain Daring said, with grim bitterness. He pointed up toward the green wall of hills that encircled three sides of the harbor and left only a narrow passage to seaward. "See yon fire smoking a pillar of black against the sky? Sometime since we anchored last night, one of our own crewmen slipped up there and lit a signal fire. We've a traitor among us, Patch, and a fight on our hands."

The balls were coming thicker, lifting over the green wall of hills as they sent the longboat racing out to the *Revenge*. Narrow-eyed, grim, Captain Daring stood in the bow, gauging the smoking arc of the bombardment.

"He's ranging back and forth just outside the harbor mouth," he told Patch, "waiting for us to make a dash for it. He's too smart to try coming in. But he can throw round-shot down on us until this narrow cove gets too hot for cover."

"And he can rake us with broadsides as we come out," Patch growled, "'Ere we can get clear of the harbor channel far enough to catch the wind."

Captain Daring smiled tightly. "We'll give Captain Hound a bit of a surprise, mayhap. I was not entirely blind and heedless when I chose this spot for hiding, Patch. Give orders to up anchor and hoist all sails. Load all guns and stand by for battle."

"But Cap'n," Patch protested as they stood on the poop deck, a few minutes later, watching

the bustle of preparation in the waist below. "With the hills ringing this harbor, we'll get no wind for sailing. We're becalmed and helpless."

"Wait, Patch," Captain Daring said. "In half an hour, we'll surprise yon freebooter with more than he bargains for."

It was almost half an hour to the minute when Patch suddenly stiffened and touched his grizzled cheek where a cold puff of wind had struck. Before he could shout, a heavy gust whistled across the calm bay and the sails filled with pistol-like reports.

"Did I not tell you?" Captain Daring chuckled. "The sundown wind gathers and whips through yon pass in the hills. I'd discovered that before I anchored here. In ten minutes we'll be whipping out the channel under full sail."

A shout went up as the *Revenge* began to move. A white comb spread from her broad bow and then the sleek, deadly, pirate-smashing craft was charging out the channel under the lash of a wind that had not yet spread over the open sea.

They caught the black ship of Captain Hound almost full on and the *Revenge* loosed a mighty broadside. They saw spars and canvas shattered and come down, saw the black smoke of a fire in the forward magazine. Then the *Revenge* was heeling far over as it swung back to let the port guns repeat the terrible, pounding lesson. The sun was still a red ball above the sea when they stood away from the island, their mission accomplished. Behind them the sinking hulk of the pirate was vanishing beneath the waves, its few survivors swimming desperately ashore.

"Now," said Captain Daring grimly, "we'll find the traitor among us and deal with him properly."

"But how," Patch demanded, scowling and fingering the broad hilt of his cutlass. "Me-thinks, he'll not confess, though I'd like to carve his cowardly carcass with a few choice designs."

"We'll find him," Captain Daring said. "Bring me a length of rope, Patch, and join me in my cabin. I've some preparations to make for this job of discovery."

Twenty minutes later Captain Daring, with

Patch beside him, stood at the rail and glared down at his assembled crew. His voice rang out with thunderous anger against them. "There is a traitor among you. One of you betrayed us to the pirate while we lay at anchor. I'll give you one chance to step forward and confess."

There was a silence, broken only by angry growls from the crew and a shuffling of feet as they turned to glare suspiciously at each other. No one stepped forward. Captain Daring raised his sword for silence. "Very well. Then I'll have to use my own method of uncovering the scurvy knave who would see us all dead for a cut-throat's gold. Listen well, all of you."

He paused, his flashing eyes singling out each nervous crewman for an individual scrutiny. "In my cabin I have rigged up a traitor's bell. Do you know what that is? It is a bell that will ring only when its rope is pulled by a traitor. You will file into my cabin, one at a time, and pull the rope you see hanging there from the rafters. If you are innocent, no bell will ring. Only the guilty man will be betrayed."

Nervous, half scoffing, half awed by the incredible statement, the crew began shuffling forward in a nervous line. One after another a man vanished into the cabin, was gone for a moment, then came out. No bell rang and each man, as he came out, looked immensely relieved.

Slowly, while Patch and Captain Daring stood by in silence, each man went into the cabin. When the last man reappeared, there had still been no sharp clangor of a betraying bell. The relief on the faces below was almost comical.

"Hold," Captain Daring thundered as they began to stir. "You are not yet through. Stand where you are, all of you, and hold your hands out in front."

As the wondering crew obeyed, Captain Daring walked swiftly past the line. Before each man he stopped, bent his head and sniffed the extended hands. When he had completed a circle of the staring crew, he whirled suddenly and pointed at a hulking, brutish sailor.

"You—Bacon," Captain Daring roared in a voice like the trump of doom. "You have given yourself away. How much did Captain Hound promise you to sell out your comrades and your captain?"

For a moment the huge Bacon could only gape. Then a wave of palor swept his face. "It's a lie," he began, falteringly, and then as Captain Daring took a threatening step toward him he

broke. "It is true. I tried to sell you out for a promised bag of gold. I swam ashore in the dawn and set the fire on the hill, as agreed. Mercy, Captain Daring. Give me another chance."

"The word mercy is not for such as you," thundered Captain Daring. "But I'll give you a chance—a far better chance than you would have given us. Draw and defend yourself, traitor."

Howling his fright, the giant fell backward before the flickering lightning of Captain Daring's whirling blade. Then, setting himself, he swung his massive cutlass and charged. A grunt was wrung from him as he threw gigantic muscles in a stroke that would have severed a main mast.

If Captain Daring had stood still, it would have spelled his finish. But as the whistling blade swung down, he darted back and then forward and his own slim steel licked out. With a gurgling cry of anguish, the giant dropped his cutlass and fell to the deck. Not a seaman moved to aid him. After all, he had plotted the brutal death of every man aboard, at the hands of the most notorious butcher of the seas. A man who would betray once would betray again. There was no easy punishment.

Looking down at the sprawled figure, Captain Daring sheathed his blade. "The rest of you may get to your stations. Hereafter, let no man think he can hide treachery from me."

Not until the crew had gone back to its duties, eyeing their captain with awed fear and respect, did Patch sidle forward. "Cap'n, I'm all at sea. I never heard of no Traitor's Bell and no bell rang. Yet you picked your man when I'd never have suspected him."

Captain Daring grinned. "It was his own foul conscience that betrayed Bacon, Patch. That rope that hung from my rafter was no more than an ordinary length of rope, but I soaked the end in oil of peppermint—that same we use for tooth-aches. When a man tugged the rope, his hands picked up the peppermint smell. But when Bacon went in, he was afraid to touch the rope for fear my yarn about a clanging bell was really true. So he stood there a moment and then came out without tugging like the rest. His hands had no smell of peppermint, so I knew he was our traitor."

He smiled at the gaping Patch. "But tell not the trick to the crew, Patch. 'Tis like I'll have need to use it again some day and it would not work if too many knew the secret."

SUSPENSE! THRILLS! ADVENTURE

IN EVERY ISSUE OF



52
BIG FULL WIDTH
PAGES

**NOW ON SALE
EVERY MONTH**

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ADVENTURES OF THE
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COMPANY!**

ACES in the air! NOW on the air!

The
BLACKHAWKS!

ERIC FALCON



MEN HAVE SAID PROUDLY THAT NAUGHT COULD SWERVE SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, ERIC FALCON, FROM HIS DESTRUCTION OF PIRATES! BUT MEN WERE WRONG! THE SAVAGE, RUTHLESS CAPTAIN HAWKE KNEW THE ONE WAY TO BRING ABOUT...
"THE SURRENDER OF ERIC FALCON!"

ERIC FALCON'S PIRATE-HUNTING CREW HAS COME ASHORE TO GET FRESH WATER!

DON'T WANDER TOO FAR, FORTUNA! WE MUST TAKE UP THE TRAIL OF THAT MURDEROUS CAPTAIN HAWKE WITH DISPATCH!

I WON'T, ERIC! BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO WANDER ON DRY GROUND AFTER SO MANY DAYS AT SEA!

I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND SOME FRESH COCONUTS IN YON GROVE, ERIC!

ALL RIGHT, FORTUNA! I'LL SUMMON YOU WHEN THE CASKS ARE FILLED!

HOLD HER QUIET, LADS! BUT GENTLY! SHE'S A FAIRER PRIZE THAN THE RICHEST TREASURE SHIP!

MMMFF!
BFFF!



THERE! NOW LET'S SEE HOW ZEALOUS ERIC FALCON IS IN HIS PIRATE-CHASING WHEN THE LIFE OF HIS LADY LOVE IS AT STAKE!

AYE! WE CAN SAIL PAST HIS VERY NOSE AND HE'LL NOT DARE FIRE A SHOT TO HALT US, CAP'N HAWKE!



INSTEAD OF HIDING IN YON COVE UNTIL NIGHTFALL, AS PLANNED, WE'LL SAIL BOLDLY OUT UPON OUR WAY!



A SHORT TIME LATER---

FORTUNA! MY LADY FORTUNA! WHERE ARE---

'SWOUNDS! WHAT DEVILTRY IS THIS?

Thanks for giving us so fair a prize! No harm will befall her as long as you do not attack or molest us! Captain Hawke



TO THE SHIP AT ONCE! CAPTAIN HAWKE IS HERE AND HAS SEIZED MY LADY FORTUNA!

THAT SCURVY KNAVE! HE'D LOOK PRETTY DANGLING FROM A MASTHEAD!



A SHORT TIME LATER, UNDER FULL SAIL ---

THERE HE IS, CAP'N FALCON! SHALL WE RUN OUT THE GUNS?

NAY! WITH FORTUNA ABOARD, WE DARE NOT FIRE A SHOT! STAND CLOSE WHILE I SPEAK TO HIM!



GREETINGS, ERIC FALCON! YOU DO WELL TO COMMAND YOUR GUNNERS TO STAY IDLE! DO WE NOT HAVE A PRETTY TARGET?

ERIC, DON'T THINK OF ME! BLAST THE DARK HEARTED FIEND WITH ALL GUNS! DESTROY HIM WHILE YOU CAN!

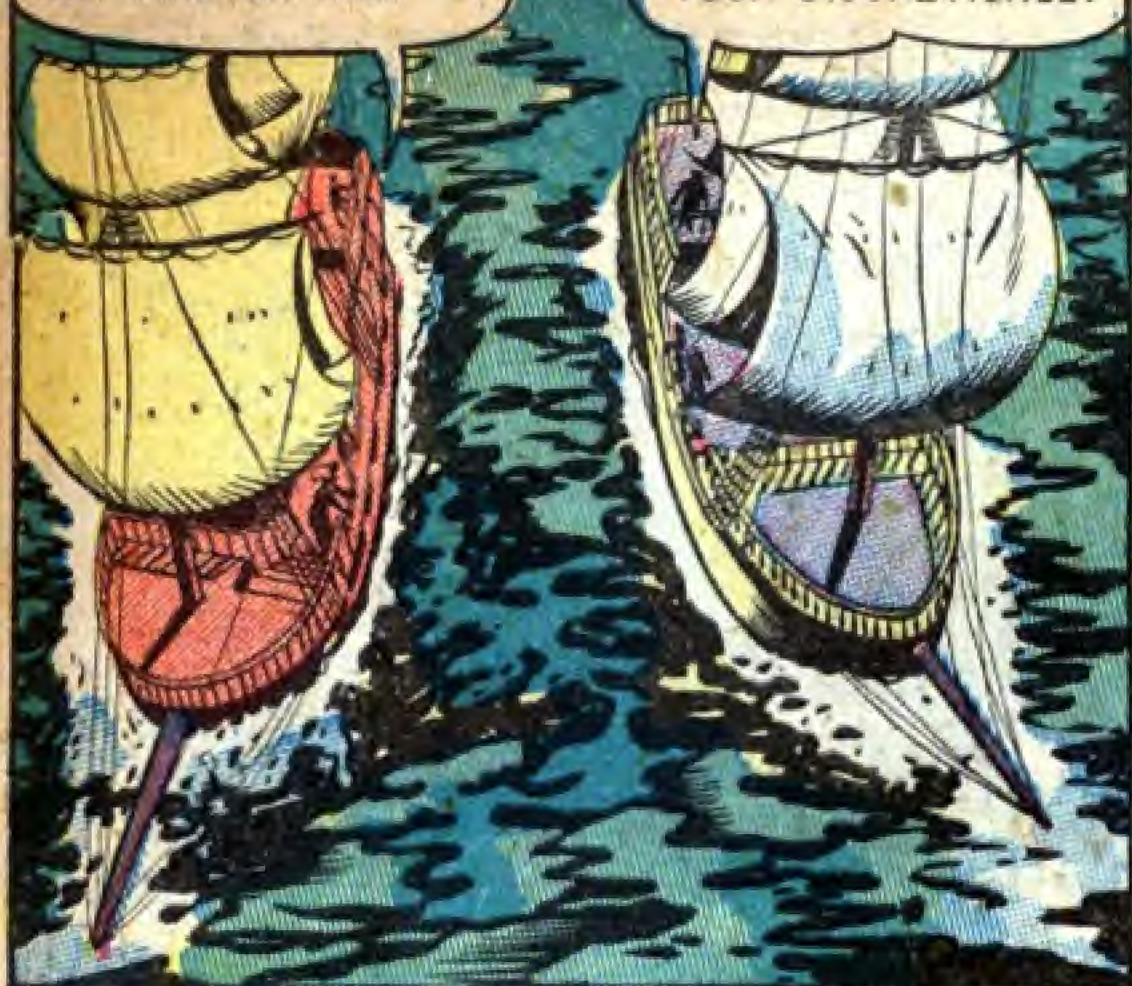


BUCCANEERS

WITH TREACHEROUS FURY, THE EVIL PIRATE DELIVERS A BROADSIDE!

NOT ALL THE VICTORIES IN CHRISTENDOM ARE WORTH ONE OF YOUR SMALL FINGERS, MY LADY! NAY, I DARE NOT FIRE ON HIM!

WELL SPOKEN, ERIC! BUT THERE IS NAUGHT TO STOP US FROM SALUTING YOUR DISCRETION...!



WE HAVE MORE FOR YOU ANY TIME YOU WISH IT!

STOP! I'LL SCUPPER THE FIRST MAN TO RUN OUT A GUN!



MY LADY OR NO, WILL YOU HAVE US STAND HELPLESS WHILE YON DOG SINKS US? WE MUST FIGHT...!

NAY! HE'LL NOT SINK US YET! HIS CRUEL NATURE PREFERS A CAT AND MOUSE GAME WHILE WE SUFFER!



CLEAR THE RIGGING AND REPAIR DAMAGE! WE'LL FOLLOW JUST OUT OF RANGE UNTIL I'VE FOUND A PLAN TO RESCUE FORTUNA!

AYE, AYE, SIR! BUT IF WE'RE ATTACKED, WE MEAN TO FIGHT BACK... EVEN THOUGH IT BE MUTINY!



WHILE, ABOARD THE SEA-HAWK...

BUT WE'VE CRIPPLED HIM, CAP'N HAWKE! SHOULDN'T WE HEAVE TO AND GIVE HIM ANOTHER BROADSIDE?

NAY! WHY END HIS MISERY WITH SWIFT MERCY? LET HIM LIVE AND KNOW FEAR AS HE MADE OTHERS DO!



BESIDES, WE CAN FORCE HIM TO DRIVE OFF OTHER ENEMIES IF WE ARE ATTACKED! HE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SPARE HIS LADY HARM!

YOU BLACK-HEARTED SCUM OF THE SEA! ERIC WILL FIND A WAY TO TURN THE TABLES!





A THOUSAND CURSES! MY LADY IS THERE, SO NEAR, YET I HAVE NO WIT TO PLAN HER RESCUE! ANY MOVE I MAKE BUT ENDANGERS HER MORE!



WHA...?

SHE'LL BE SAFE AS LONG AS HER SAFETY GUARDS CAPTAIN HAWKE, BUT ---

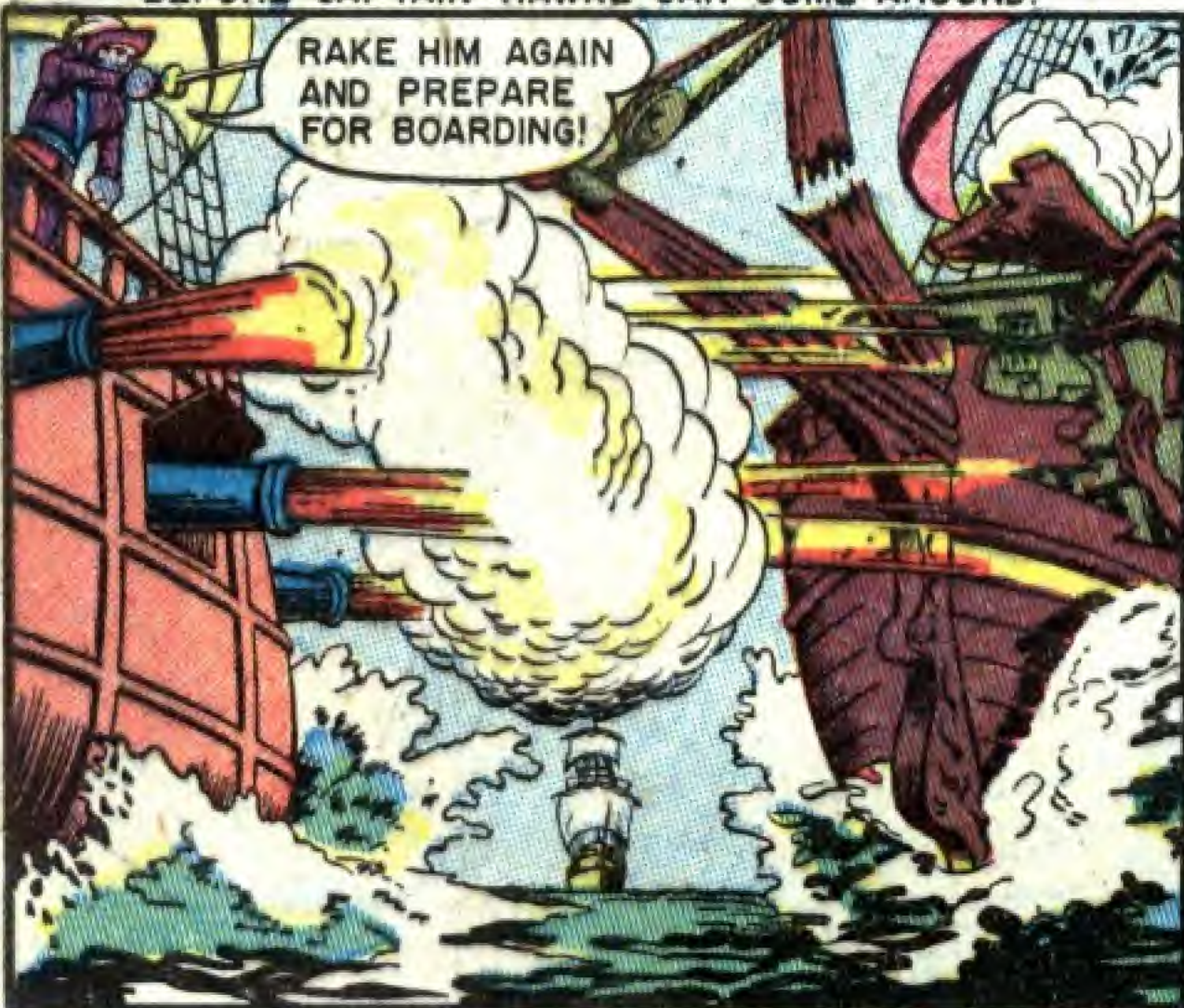
CAP'N FALCON, ANOTHER PIRATE COMING UP TO STARBOARD!



HE MUST MEAN TO JOIN CAPTAIN HAWKE IN DESTROYING US! CLEAR THE DECKS FOR ACTION! WE MUST ATTACK HIM ERE HE JOINS FORCES!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

THE BATTLE IS JOINED WITH STUNNING SWIFTNES, BEFORE CAPTAIN HAWKE CAN COME AROUND!



RAKE HIM AGAIN AND PREPARE FOR BOARDING!



SCUPPER THEM ALL! LEAVE NONE ALIVE UNLESS THEY GO IN CHAINS TO OUR OWN HOLD!



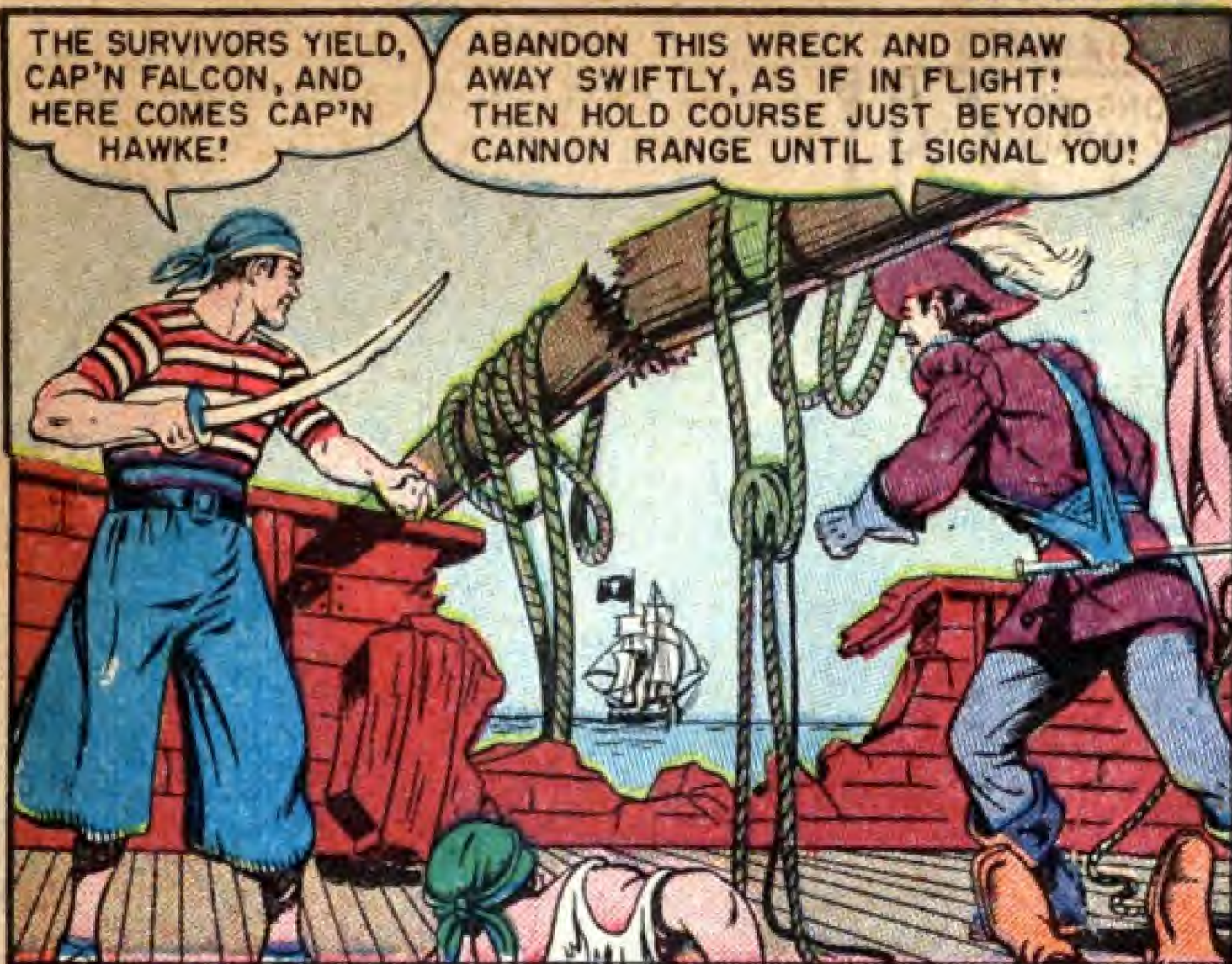
I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON, MY PRETTY LAD...!

AND WILL YOU, NOW...?



I ALWAYS THOUGHT A TEACHER MUST NEEDS KNOW MORE THAN THE PUPIL!

EEE-A-HHH!



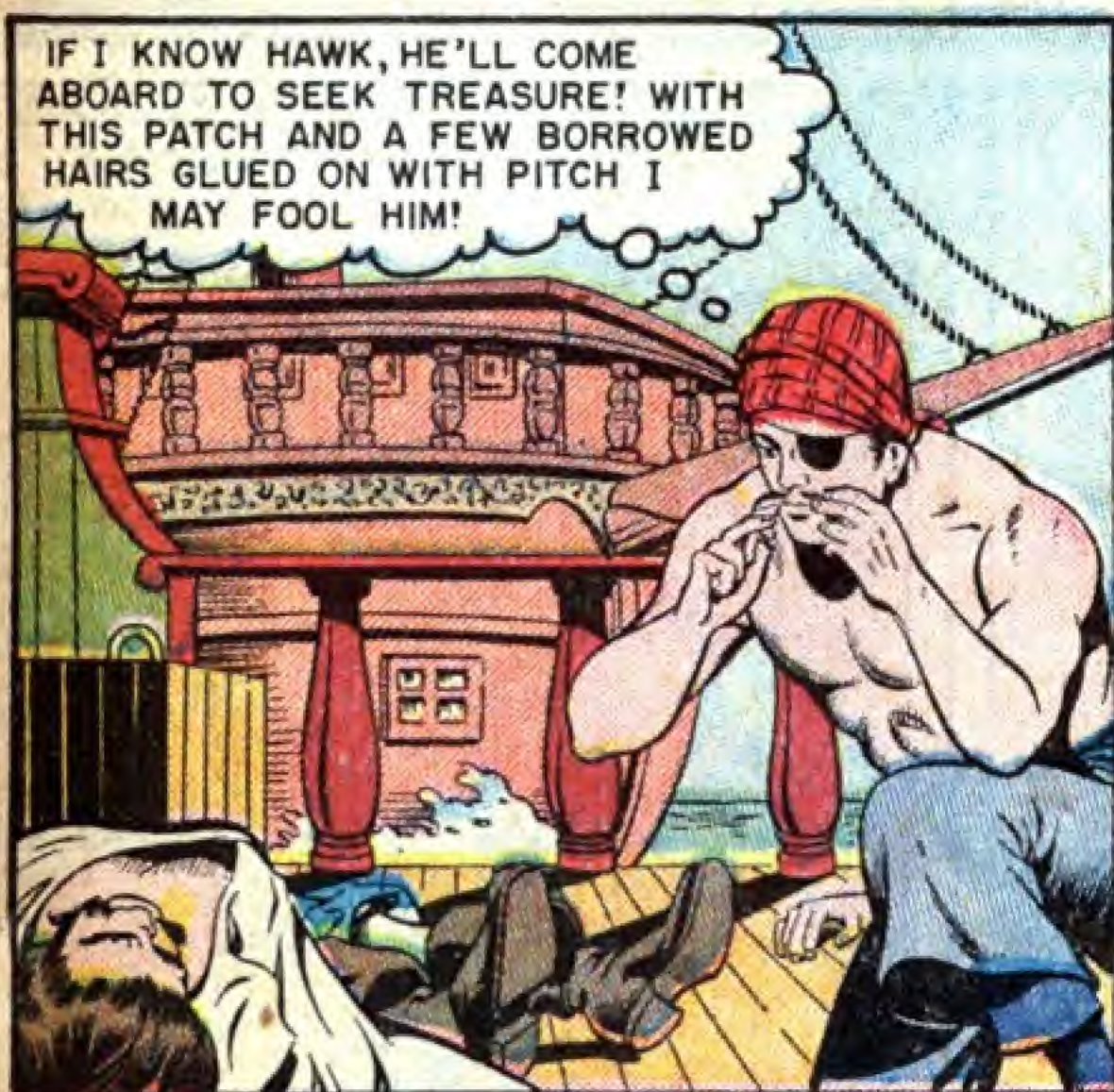
THE SURVIVORS YIELD, CAP'N FALCON, AND HERE COMES CAP'N HAWKE!

ABANDON THIS WRECK AND DRAW AWAY SWIFTLY, AS IF IN FLIGHT! THEN HOLD COURSE JUST BEYOND CANNON RANGE UNTIL I SIGNAL YOU!

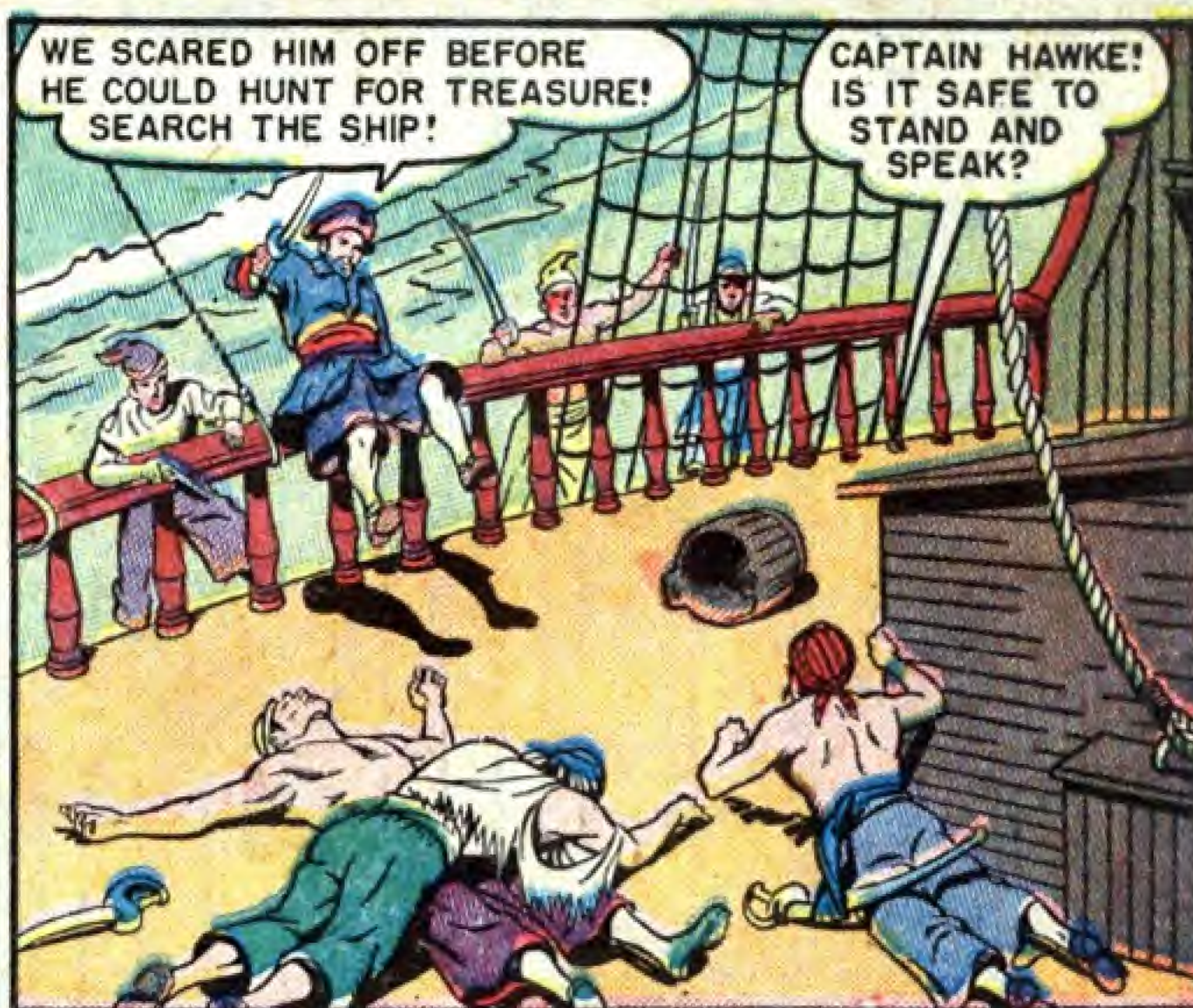


BUT DO YOU NOT RETURN WITH US?

NAY! I HAVE A PLAN FOR RESCUING MY LADY FORTUNA! HASTE! DO AS I SAY ERE CAPTAIN HAWKE DRAWS NEARER!



IF I KNOW HAWK, HE'LL COME ABOARD TO SEEK TREASURE! WITH THIS PATCH AND A FEW BORROWED HAIRS GLUED ON WITH PITCH I MAY FOOL HIM!



WE SCARED HIM OFF BEFORE HE COULD HUNT FOR TREASURE! SEARCH THE SHIP!

CAPTAIN HAWKE! IS IT SAFE TO STAND AND SPEAK?



WHA...? IT'S SAFER THAN NOT SPEAKING, KNAVE! QUICK, WHO ARE YOU?

ONE-EYE'S THE NAME, SIR! I WAS ONE OF THE CREW ABOARD HERE! WHEN THAT SCURVY FALCON BOARDED US, I PLAYED DEAD TO ESCAPE HIM!



I HEARD HIM SPEAK OF YOUR COMING WHEN HE FLED! I ASK ONLY THAT YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU!

HMM! WE ARE INDEED SHORT-HANDED, THANKS TO THAT FIEND OF A FALCON! JOIN US THEN, ONE-EYE, AND WELCOME!

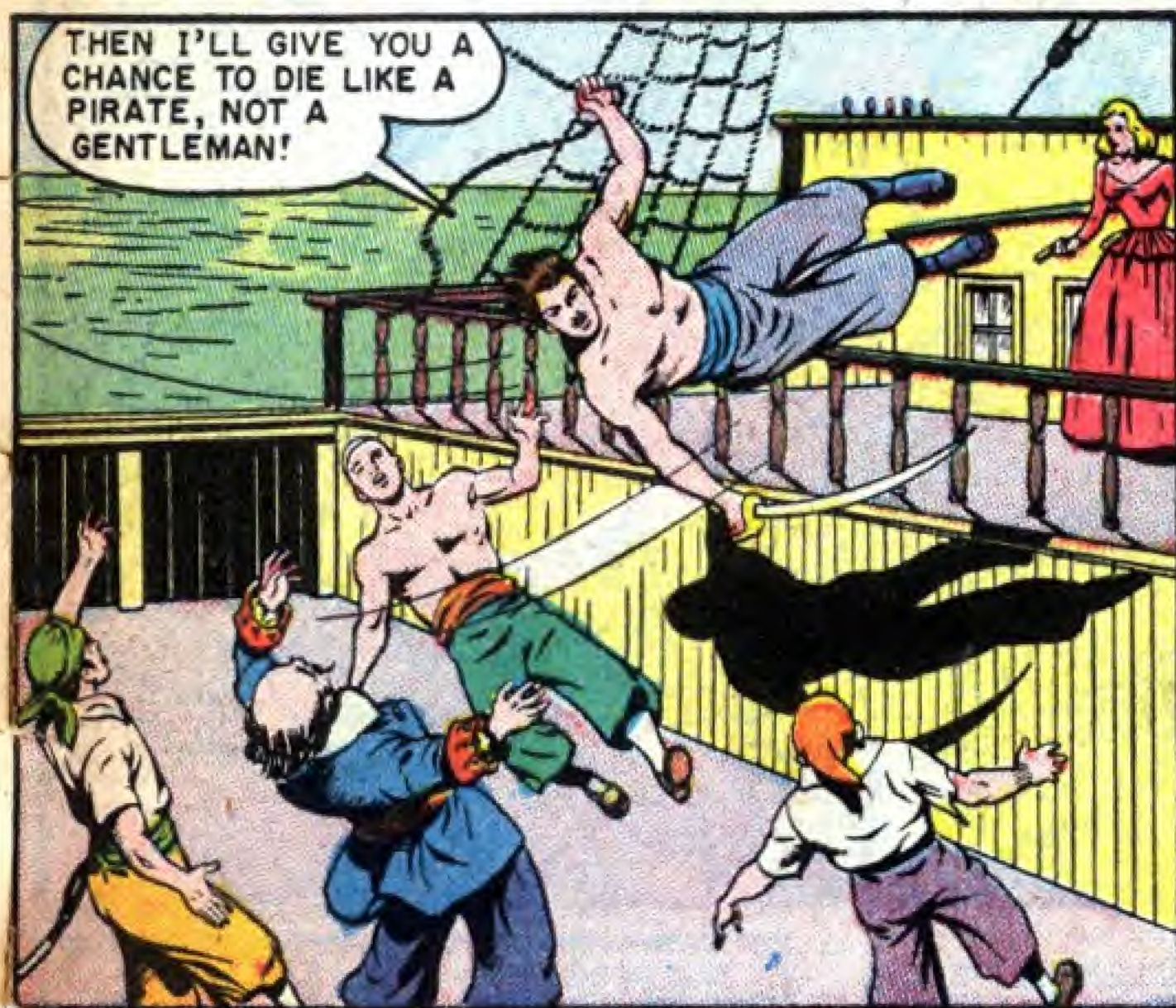


HIS DISGUISE STILL PROTECTING HIM, ERIC IS TAKEN ABOARD THE SEA HAWK!

AS A NEW MAN, YOU'LL WORK FOR YOUR KEEP! HOLYSTONE THIS DECK UNTIL IT GLISTENS!

AYE, AYE, CAP'N!





A SHORT TIME LATER...



CORSAIR QUEEN



FROM THE CARIBBEAN SEA TO THE BARBARY COAST MEN WHISPER STORIES OF LILA, THE CORSAIR QUEEN, WHOSE BEAUTY IS EQUALED ONLY BY HER FEROCITY! WHO IS THIS WOMAN OF MYSTERY WHOM EVEN THE PIRATES FEAR? HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS THE TRUE STORY OF HOW A GENTLE-WOMAN BECAME ---

THE TIGRESS OF THE SEAS!

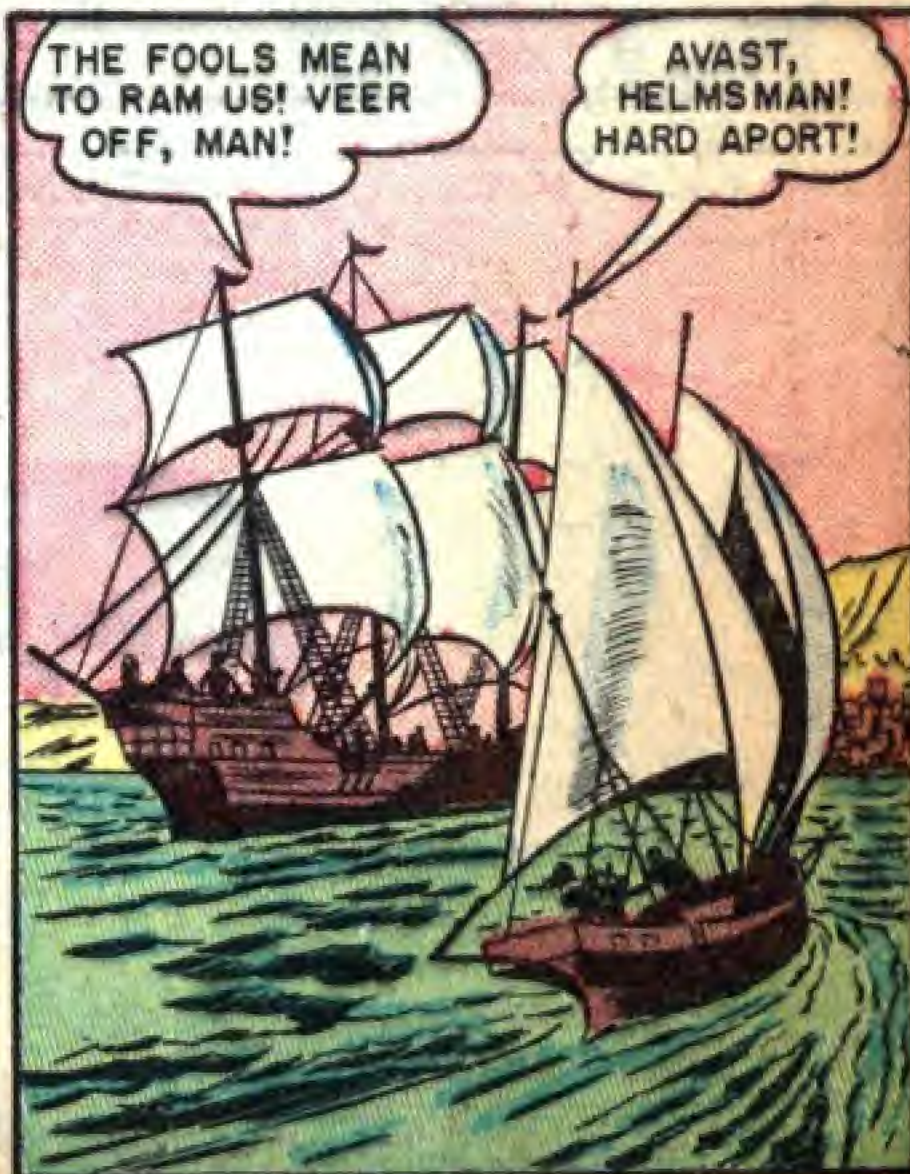
SIR CEDRIC EVANS, GOVERNOR OF CARTAGO, IS RETURNING HOME FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO A NEIGHBORING COLONY ---

AH, CAPTAIN, IT'S GOOD TO RETURN HOME! THERE'S NO LOVLIER SPOT ON EARTH THAN CARTAGO IN THE SPRING!

GOVERNOR! LOOK....!

THE FOOLS MEAN TO RAM US! VEER OFF, MAN!

AVAST, HELMSMAN! HARD APORT!



A MOMENT LATER...

HELLO, DAD! WELCOME BACK TO CARTAGO! GREETINGS, CAPTAIN GRAY!

Y-YOU! LILA EVANS, IF YOU WERE YOUNGER, I... I'D SPANK YOU! WHAT KIND OF GOINGS ON ARE THESE?

LOOK AT YOU! A GOVERNOR'S DAUGHTER AND A GENTLE-WOMAN, DRESSED LIKE A --- A HOYDEN! AND SAILING A BOAT INSTEAD OF DOING NEEDLEWORK!

FIE ON NEEDLE-WORK! I'D RATHER RIDE AND SAIL AND FENCE! I NEVER WANTED TO BE A LADY, ANYHOW!

DAD, I'M STILL CONCERNED ABOUT CARTAGO'S DEFENSES! YOU KNOW THAT PIRATE, BLOODY BLAKE, IS ATTACKING ISOLATED COLONIES ---

NONSENSE! HE WOULDN'T DARE SHOW HIS FACE NEAR CARTAGO! WE'RE TOO STRONG FOR HIM! THOSE BUTCHERS ARE ALL COWARDS!

AND AS FOR YOU, MONK... I APPOINTED YOU TO GUARD MY DAUGHTER, NOT ENCOURAGE HER ROUGHNECK WAYS! I'LL HAVE NO MORE OF IT!

YES, SIR CEDRIC! I MEAN NO, SIR CEDRIC!

ON GUARD, GOVERNOR! LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOUR DEFENSES ARE!

N-NOW, LILA, YOU STOP IT THIS INSTANT! I WON'T HAVE IT!

STOP IT, I SAY! 'TIS UNSEEMLY AND DANGEROUS! LILA, I FORBID---

YOU'D BETTER FORBID YOURSELF SO MANY BANQUETS, DAD! LOOK AT YOU, PUFFING LIKE A PORPOISE! AND SUCH ATROCIOUS FOOTWORK!

OOPS! NO FAIR! 'T WAS A FLUKE, THAT'S ALL! WHY I WAS CONSIDERED THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN LONDON... PUFF-PUFF!

THEN YOU'D BETTER DO SOME PRACTISING WITH MONK BEFORE YOU RETURN TO LONDON AND SHAME US BOTH, DAD!

ENOUGH OF THIS DERRING-DO! GO DRESS FOR THE COUNCIL DINNER TONIGHT! AND TRY TO ACT LIKE A LADY!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL BE A LADY IF IT KILLS ME! I'LL EVEN BE NICE TO THAT SLIMEY LORD MERCKLE, FOR YOUR SAKE, DAD!

THAT NIGHT...

AH, MY DEAR LILA, YOUR LOVELINESS SHAMES THE MOON AND STARS!

UGH...! I MEAN... FIE, LORD MERCKLE! YOUR PRETTY SPEECHES TURN MY POOR HEAD, I FEAR!

WOULD THAT I COULD TURN HIS HEAD... AROUND AND AROUND UNTIL IT SEPARATES FROM HIS SHOULDERS!

NOW, LILA! PLEASE...! LORD MERCKLE IS A VERY IMPORTANT PERSONAGE!

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...

WHA...? PIRATES... HERE IN CARTAGO!

BLOODY BLAKES, THE NAME, LUBBERS! YOUR GUARDS ARE DEAD AND MY MEN CONTROL THE TOWN! SURRENDER QUIETLY...!

WHAT? SURRENDER TO SCUM OF THE SEA LIKE YOU? NEVER!

LILA! NO...!

NOT SO IMPETUOUS, MY DEAR LILA!

OOOOFFF!

I'VE LONG WANTED TO DISPOSE OF YOU, YOU POMPOUS CLOWN!

CLOSE IN, LADS! FINISH THEM ALL SO THERE'LL BE NONE TO OPPOSE YOUR LOOTING!

LILA COMES TO IN A SCENE OF HORROR...

OH...! YOU BEASTS! BUTCHERS! MURDERING COWARDS!

DEAD MEN, MY DEAR, ARE FAR LESS TROUBLESOME! AND I COULDN'T HAVE MY PART IN THIS BUSINESS BOOTED ABOUT, YOU KNOW!





THEY'RE FIRING THE HOUSES! THEY WILL DESTROY CARTAGO AS AN EXAMPLE TO TERRIFY OTHER COLONIES!

WE CAN'T SAVE THE CITY BUT WE CAN AVENGE IT!



THEY'LL ALL BE ASHORE FOR THE PLUNDERING, WITH ONLY A TOKEN GUARD ON THEIR SHIP! IF WE CAN SEIZE IT...!

TURN EAST, M'LADY, THERE'S A SMALL BOAT TIED IN A COVE THERE!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
SWING WIDE TO COME UP FROM THEIR SEAWARD SIDE, MONK! THEY'LL BE BUSY WATCHING OUR CITY BURN!

AYE! WE'LL SEND THEM TO A REGION OF HOTTER FIRES!



'SWOUNDS! KILL THE APE, BUT SAVE THE GIRL FOR ME, MATES!

COME AND TAKE ME FOR YOURSELF, BILGE-RAT!



YIIII! MY BLADE PARTS LIKE BUTTER!

AND YOUR SKULL WILL DO LIKEWISE!



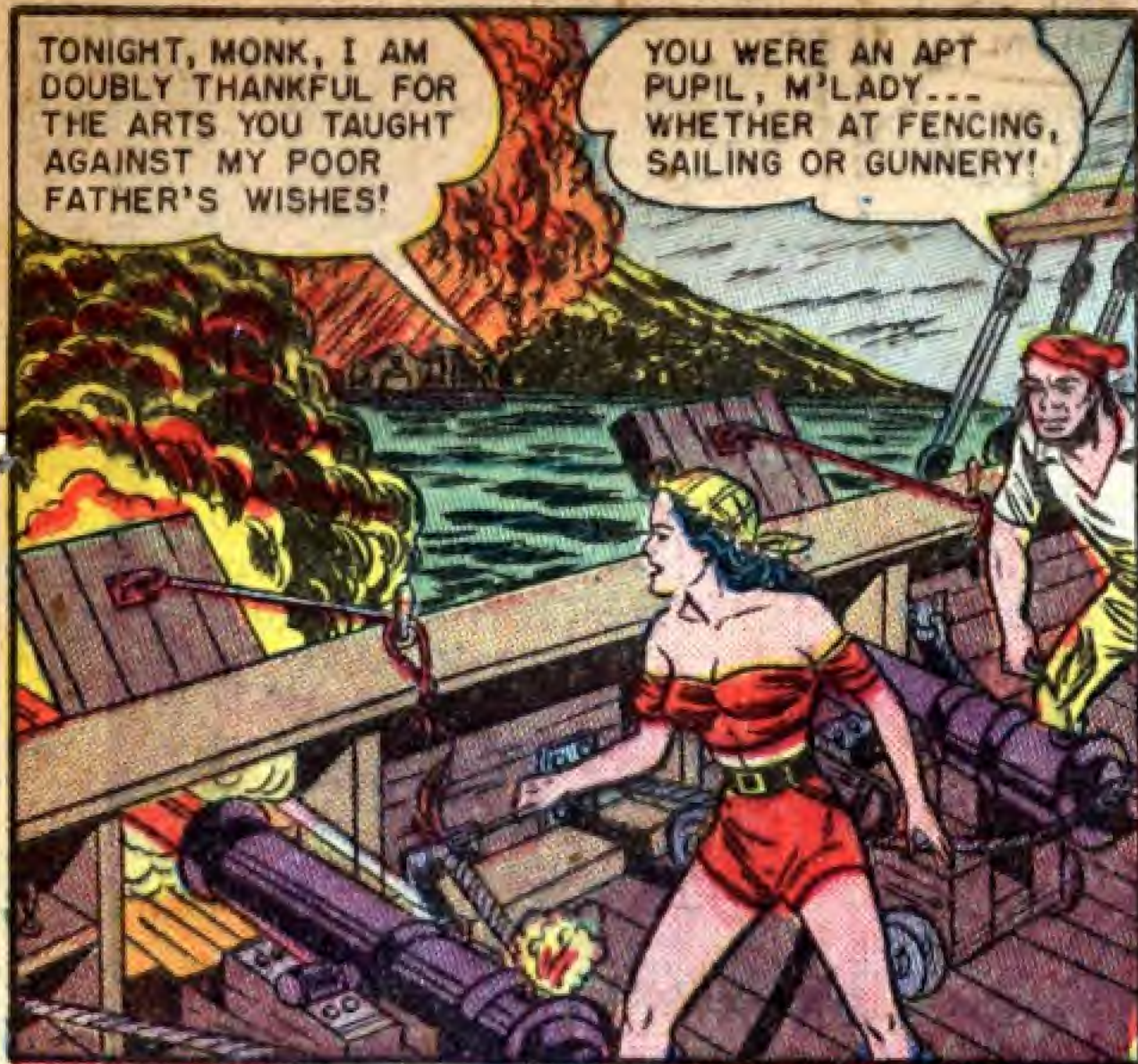
FAREWELL, BUTCHER... AND MAY FIENDS CONSUME YOU!

BEAUTIFULLY DONE, M'LADY! NO MAN ALIVE CAN MATCH YOUR STEEL OR YOUR COURAGE!



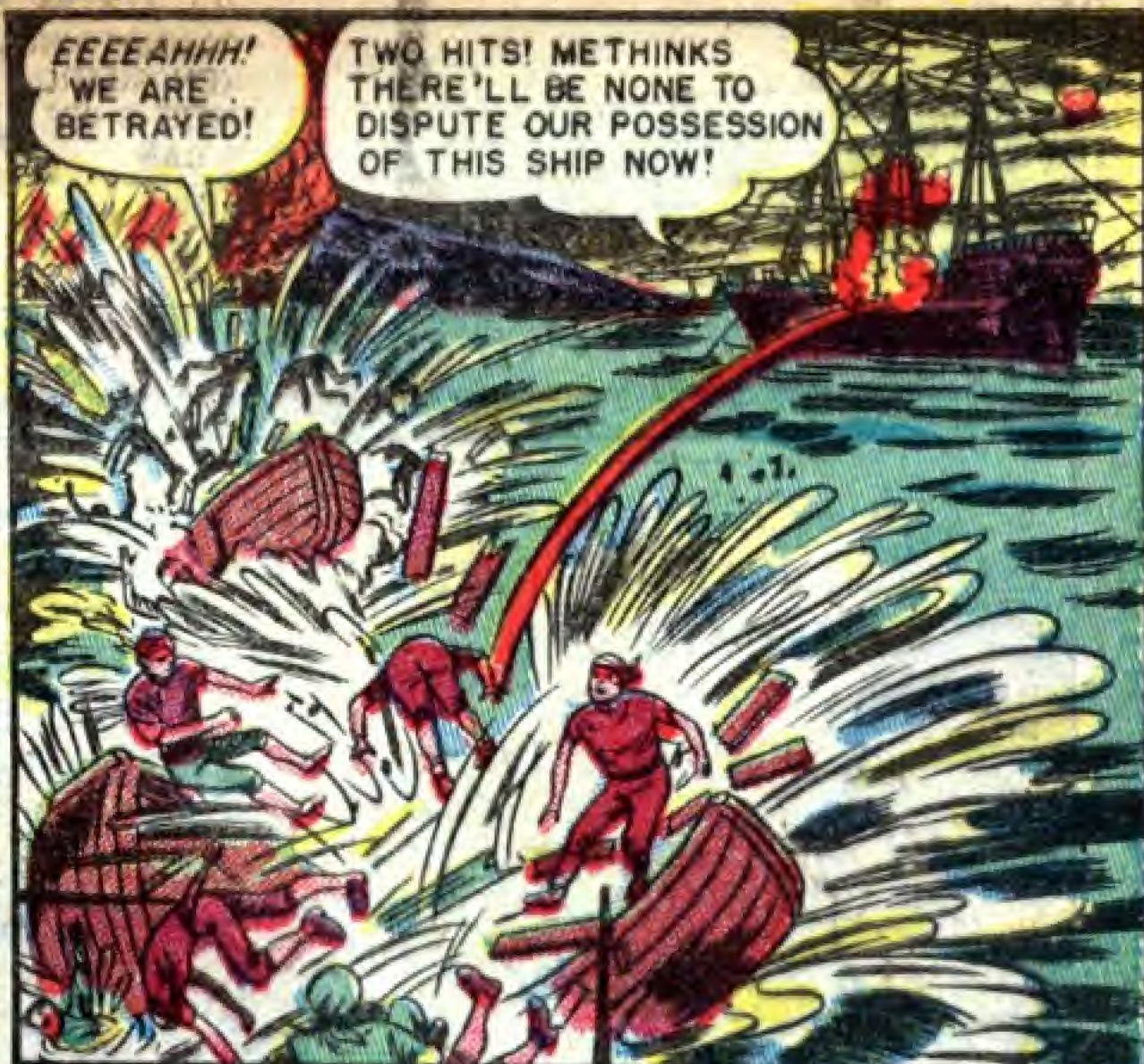
M'LADY... LOOK! THE PIRATES ARE RETURNING WITH THEIR LOOT!

THEY SEEK A WELCOME ABOARD AND WE'LL HASTE TO PREPARE IT! HELP ME! RUN OUT THESE CANNON!



TONIGHT, MONK, I AM DOUBLY THANKFUL FOR THE ARTS YOU TAUGHT AGAINST MY POOR FATHER'S WISHES!

YOU WERE AN APT PUPIL, M'LADY... WHETHER AT FENCING, SAILING OR GUNNERY!



EEEEAAHHH! WE ARE BETRAYED!

TWO HITS! METHINKS THERE'LL BE NONE TO DISPUTE OUR POSSESSION OF THIS SHIP NOW!



WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, M'LADY? YOU ARE ALONE IN THE WORLD, SAVE FOR ME... YOUR HOME DESTROYED, YOUR POSSESSIONS LOOTED...

I'VE BEEN THINKING OF THAT, MONK, AND I'VE REACHED A PLAN!



HERE IS A FINE, FAST SHIP... WANTING ONLY A CREW AND A PURPOSE! ASHORE ARE MANY BITTER MEN, SURVIVORS OF THE MURDEROUS RAID! THEY WOULD WELCOME A CHANCE TO AVENGE THEIR DEAD!



IF THEY'LL SWEAR AN OATH TO SAIL WITH ME, I'LL TURN THIS CRAFT INTO THE SCOURGE OF THE SEAS! I'LL CALL HER THE DESTROYER!

YOU MEAN YOU'LL TURN BUCCANEER, M'LADY!



I'LL MAKE IT SEEM SO... BUT MY PREY WILL BE THE CUTTHROATS AND ROVERS LIKE BLAKE, AND TREACHEROUS SNAKE'S LIKE MERCKLE!

THEN I ASK ONLY THE RIGHT TO SAIL AND FIGHT BESIDE YOU, M'LADY!



THEN LET'S HASTE TO RECRUIT SEAMEN, MONK! THE BLOOD OF OUR LOVED ONES FOULY MURDERED, CRY FOR VENGEANCE!

AYE, AND UNDER THE **CORSAIR QUEEN**, WE'LL REDDEN THE SEVEN SEAS WITH OUR FURY! WITH LUCK WE'LL SAIL AT DAWN!



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